

BARRE GAZETTE

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Festival of Lessons and Carols celebrates 25 years

OAKHAM – It has been 25 years since the Oakham Congregational Church began its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, performed by church and community singers. In 1995 Dawn Thistle, organist and choir director, wanted to offer the community a musical way to observe Advent and prepare for the Christmas celebration. Since then, musicians, readers and the audience have joined together for this special seasonal event. Mary Ellen Derrick speaks for many audience members when she says, “I always look forward to Lessons & Carols. The musicians always do a beautiful job!”

For the first fifteen years, the church’s choir modeled its programs on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held every Christmas Eve in King’s College Chapel, Cambridge, England, which is broadcast on public radio every year. Traditional Christmas carols alternated with scriptures about the birth of Christ and choir anthems from different styles and periods.

The early Oakham programs were accompanied only by piano, but over the years other instruments were added. The Festival moved in a new direction in 2009 by featuring a Christmas cantata, “I Hear the Prophet Callin’” by Pepper Choplin, accompanied by full orchestra. This marked the beginning of a great partnership between

See LESSONS AND CAROLS, page 7

Snow adds holiday spirit to Christmas in Barre



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

Santa Claus brings up the rear of the annual Santa Parade in Barre last Saturday. Draft horses from Blue Star Farm in West Brookfield pull the wagon. Turn to page 8 for more photos.

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – Almost two feet of snow that fell earlier in the week did not stop Christmas in Barre from happening last Saturday.

“This is something we never anticipated and we will just have to let it play out and do the best we can on Saturday,” said Sandy Hood, a member of the Christmas in Barre Committee, at the beginning of the week. Due to the snow, there was no Kids Obstacle course on the Barre Common.

It did not stop the Barre Lions Club and Mt. Zion Lodge Masons from selling Christmas trees. The Lions club also served breakfast sandwiches early in the morning and hotdogs at noon.

The parade happened anyway thanks to the efforts by the Barre Department of Public Works to clear pathways, sidewalks and roads. The Barre Police Department handled traffic control. Members of the board of selectmen and Fire Department participated in the Santa Parade along with Santa himself. Following the parade, he along with Mrs. Claus moved to the Heritage Center to visit with children. People had the opportunity to shop at three fairs: one in the Barre Town Hall, another at the Barre Congregational Church and the third at the Barre Senior Center. MOC CFCE program on Allen Drive and the Woods Memorial Library offered activities for children in the morning. All the snow added some holiday spirit to the event.



It was a white scene of Barre Common during Christmas in Barre last Saturday. Earlier in the week almost two feet of snow fell. The town’s Department of Public Works had lots of snow to move away for the popular annual event.

Selectmen approve single tax rate at hearing

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

OAKHAM – Selectmen went with the assessors’ recommendation and approved a single tax rate.

Assessor Diane Peterson said the town always maintained a single tax rate. Only 2.8 percent of taxable property was commercial and industrial, she said.

If approved by the Department of Revenue, the tax rate this year would be \$13.54 per thousand of valuation. It is lower than last year’s rate of \$14.51 per thousand of valuation as property evaluations went up about 6.5 percent.

The excess tax levy was “\$93,198.39. Diane Peterson said, “[It is a] lot of money to leave on the table in a small town.” Although it was too late now, she said the town could have spent some of that money. Selectmen said that next year there would be discussion among boards and department heads to avoid this in the future.

Town accountant

Selectmen chair Steve Labarre said the board ran an ad for the town accountant position and it received some interest. Interim town accountant Tom Wilson applied. Selectmen met with Wilson at the Monday night meeting. Selectmen appointed Wilson town accountant effective immediately until June 30, 2020, the end of the fiscal year. The board would

See OAKHAM, page 5

Hubbardston hosts brunch and gingerbread house contest

By Karen A. Lewis
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – Hometown holiday spirit, a sentiment newcomers Anna and Alex Timofeev felt last weekend along with a welcoming feeling they have been receiving ever since they moved their family from Colorado to Hubbardston over the summer.

“I love the small town, every-

one is so friendly and nice,” Anna Timofeev said, after taking pictures of her two children, Arina, 7 years and Andrei, five years, with Santa at the Fourth Annual Brunch with Santa last Saturday morning at the Hubbardston Center School.

Well over 50 families with their children attended the popular event, which offered delicious breakfast snacks and goodies, crafts to make, a Chinese Auction

to play, a Gingerbread Contest to enter and of course the highlight of the morning – a visit with the big guy himself, Santa Claus.

The Timofeevs were impressed by the holiday event, adding that they also really enjoyed the Halloween festivities two months ago and have been pleased with the school system.

“I like the fact we have so much land out here,” Alex Timofeev said.

“I grew up in the country, so this is great for me.”

It was a mixture of first time attendees and returning families; with everyone in agreement Hubbardston was the place to be Saturday morning.

“We initially started this brunch as a fundraiser for the 250th Birthday Celebration in the town,” said Katie Young, special events advisor to the town of Hubbardston

and also the organizer of the brunch. “The event went over so well and it was good for the town, we decided to do it annually.”

As Young looked around and took in the atmosphere of mothers, fathers, grandparents, friends and children all having a good time, a big smile came over her face.

“This is what it’s supposed to be for an event like this,” admitted Young. “You can’t get any nicer

than this. It’s a place where you can come and relax, socialize and actually enjoy this very busy time of year without having to worry about where your kids are or if they are acting out.”

New this year to the popular brunch was an opportunity to create and submit a gingerbread house to be judged. Young selected four

See HUBBARDSTON, page 7

DOR approves Barre’s tax rate

BARRE – The Town of Barre Assessor’s Office announces that the Department of Revenue approved the Fiscal 2020 tax rate. The approved tax rate is \$17.87 per \$1,000 valuation, which is a decrease of 25 cents from the Fiscal 2019 tax rate.

Based upon recent valid sales within the town of Barre the Fiscal 2019 average single family home valuation of \$210,165 has increased by approximately \$9,139 to the recently approved Fiscal 2020 average single family home valuation of approximately \$219,304 with the expected increase in valuations along with town spending at town meeting the average single family home owner

could see an actual tax increase of approximately \$110.77 for Fiscal 2020.

The third and fourth quarter tax bills will be prepared within the next few weeks and should be mailed out by Dec. 31 with the third quarter payment due by Feb. 3, 2020 and the fourth quarter due by May 4, 2020.

If people have any questions regarding their valuation they can contact the Assessor’s Office at 978-355-2504 extension 103/104.

Abatement applications must be filed with this office no later than Feb. 3, 2020 and Exemption applications must be filed with this office no later than April 1, 2020.

Paige Library hosts gingerbread house decorating Dec. 14

HARDWICK – Gingerbread house decorating will take place at Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Children will create a holiday

favorite with graham crackers, icing and goodies galore. Supplies will be provided, but participants should bring colored frosting and candy, cereal, pretzels, etc. to make a house more special.

For more information, people may stop by the library or contact 413-477-6704, director.paigeb@library.com, www.facebook.com/paigeb@library or www.paigeb@library.com.

Nativity exhibit shared with community

By Karen A. Lewis
Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Special holiday memories were made for Mariann and Louis LoSasso from Spencer last Thursday when they attended the annual Nativities Around the World at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in North Brookfield.

“I’ve heard about this for years and always wanted to go,” said first-time attendee Mariann LoSasso. “It’s very creative and puts you in the spiritual mood for Christmas.”

Over 400 donated nativities were on display within five designated rooms throughout the church. Members of the congregation and residents of the local community generously loaned distinctive sets with unique interpretations of the birth of Jesus on the Christmas holiday.

“It is a huge effort and involves the time and commitment of a lot of people,” event coordinator, Linda Carpenter, said, who added it continued annually for two reasons.

“Most importantly, there is a desire to focus, and help others focus, on the real meaning of Christmas and its significance



Turley Publications Photos by Karen A. Lewis

Mariann and Louis LoSasso from Spencer admire the fine details of one of the nativities last weekend.

to all of us,” stated Carpenter. “Secondly, it is wonderful to welcome our friends, neighbors and community members to enjoy with us. We are blessed to have a building that makes it possible to carry out this event and we enjoy sharing both the event and building with everyone.”

From last Thursday through Saturday everyone was invited to walk through the interesting exhib-

it, experiencing the variety of ways this special period of time was depicted.

“All the stores and many of the songs of Christmas tell you to buy something,” LoSasso said, continuing to marvel at the numerous nativities. “There is nothing about when Christ was born in stores. Walking through the white room was almost mystical.”

Church volunteer Vivian Acosta

explained most of the rooms were either set up by families or groups. The much-loved “White Room” was decorated and designed by Hardwick resident Gail A. Anderson and her daughters from neighboring towns.

“I’m interested in getting the Jesus Christ in Christmas,” Anderson said, as she took a few minutes to talk about both the room and the season. “I have nothing against the gift giving and partying, but how about getting back to what the holiday really means?”

The dozens of white lights, drapery hanging from the ceiling, glittering trees as backdrops and of course, the exquisite selection of nativities carefully placed throughout the are made the White Room truly a spot in the church many didn’t want to leave.

“One of the largest nativities was a beautiful antique set loaned by Jim Foyle,” said Carpenter. “His set acts as a focal point for the White Room that seems heavenly in its presentation. We are very grateful to be able to display it.”

Carpenter estimated that as many as 20 percent of the nativities come from non-church member homes.

See NATIVITY, page 8



News of the Towns



Round Town

Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Band of Voices to hold concert

The Band of Voices will hold its Christmas concert Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street. Refreshments will be served.

Senior holiday party reminder

The holiday party for Barre seniors will be held Friday, Dec. 20 starting at 11:45 a.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. Sign up is required by Tuesday, Dec. 17. The meal will be catered by McNally's and includes a choice of pot roast or fish and includes vegetable, potato and desserts. Cost is \$8 per person with part of the total cost of \$12 being supplemented by the senior center. Following the meal, the Hubbardston Swinging Seniors group will provide musical entertainment.

Barre Players Theater

Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St., presents "Plaid Tidings," a special holiday edition of "Forever Plaid" by Stuart Ross Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. General admission is \$20 and \$15 for seniors and children. Stage direction and choreography is by Meg Norton and music direction by James Joinville. The play features Robert Herstedt, James Lamoureux, Anthony Masciangioli and Isaac Swanson.

No. 4 Schoolhouse Christmas party

The annual Christmas party at the No. 4 Schoolhouse, Farrington Road, will be held Saturday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Members and non-members are welcome. People may RSVP to Joyce Dea at 978-355-2005 or no4schoolhouse@gmail.com with attendance information. This is helpful, as Santa will deliver a small gift to each child under the age of 12.

No. 4 Schoolhouse to hold Christmas party

BARRE – The annual Christmas party celebration at the No. 4. Schoolhouse, 209 Farrington Road, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. Non-members are welcome to the party. People should RSVP to Joyce Dea at 978-355-2005 or no4schoolhouse@gmail.com with attendance information. Santa will deliver a small gift to each child under the age of 12. For more information, people may email no4schoolhouse@gmail.com.

Barre Food Pantry offers monthly evening distribution

BARRE – People in need of food assistance are welcome to the Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congregational Church, on the common in Barre center, Thursday, Dec. 19 from 5:30-7 p.m. for free monthly distribution of fresh, frozen and canned food made available through local and regional donations and state and federal government programs.

The Barre Food Pantry would like to encourage clients to bring their reusable grocery tote bags with them when they come to pick up food at distribution. For additional information, people may call Sonja at 978-355-6921 or Chuck at 978-355-6463.

Band of Voices presents 22nd annual concert



Turley Publications Submitted Photo

Band of Voices will hold a concert this Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre.

BARRE – The Band of Voices will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of "Joy to the World" when it presents its 22nd annual concert Saturday, Dec. 14 at Barre Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Those attending may arrive at 7 p.m. for a prelude and friendly conversation.

Director Nan A.K. Gibbons has selected an anthem-like "vibrant" version of "Joy to the World" which was composed by Thomas Shoel (1759 -1823) to celebrate this famous carol written by Isaac Watts in 1719.

The 20-plus singers got enthusiastic applause recently when they made their debut performance of this piece at the Holiday Songfest at The Stone Church in Gilbertville last Friday.

This intergenerational chorus is known for their performances of New

England music, shape-note singing and music by local composers.

Director Nan Gibbons said, "Rehearsals are a way to feed the soul, and a rich experience of music and community" both for singers and their faithful audience.

The concert will open with "Solstice Joy" followed by "Frosty Midnight," both rounds with words written by Nan Gibbons.

Other pieces include "A Winter Charm," a Scottish waulking tune; "A New Year Round;" "Ashes and Smoke;" "A Milford Christmas;" a shape-note song and "Deep Calls to Deep" with words and music by Mary Alice Amidon.

Interspersed will be poems reminiscent of the season of Christmas and the Winter Solstice read by band members.

Other highlights of the group's repertoire will be

"O Magnum Mysterium" by Tomas de Victoria, and "Oh the Comfort" by Peter Amidon, who rewrote the poem "A Life For a Life" written in 1859 by Dinah Mulock Craik and set it to music.

Minnie Isgro, along with Nan Gibbons, will offer the very beautiful "O Holy Night" with guitar accompaniment.

The very popular small women's and men's groups have selections that are sure to delight as well.

The audience will be invited to sing along with rousing carols and songs, to get everyone in the spirit of the season of love, peace, and especially, joy.

A free will offering will be taken to help keep the Band of Voices singing throughout the years. At the conclusion of the concert, all are invited to stay and enjoy refreshments provided by chorus members.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Sock drive benefits veterans

A sock drive to benefit Montachusett Veterans Outreach, Gardner and Veterans Inc. Worcester is ongoing now through Dec. 20. New men's, women's and children's white socks, no colors please, can be dropped off at the Hubbardston Rod and Gun Club, Williamsville Road. Socks are one of the items most needed for homeless veterans or veterans in need. For more information, people may call the club at 978-928-4490.

Christmas Fair

The Friends of the Hubbardston Senior Center invite people to join them at the annual Hubbardston Senior Center Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7 Main Street. Many vendors will be there to help with your holiday shopping needs, including their annual raffle table. People are invited to stop by and support the Hubbardston Senior Center.

Pioneer Valley Brass concert

The Pioneer Valley Brass will perform a free public concert of holiday music in Hubbardston on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian, sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana.

Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., weekly schedule includes: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - Wii Bowling at 8 a.m.; Monday - Friday coffee hour at 8 a.m.; Tuesday - Swinging Singing Seniors at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday - walking club at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday - Senior Center meals by MOC at 11:45 a.m., Wednesday - pitch (second and fourth Wednesdays each month) at 1:30 p.m., Thursday - cribbage (second and fourth Thursdays each month) at 1:30 p.m., Friday - craft corner (third Friday each month) at 10 a.m., Friday - cribbage at 1:30 p.m. and Friday evenings - pitch (first and third Fridays each month) at 6:30 p.m. Free bread/baked goods are available at the senior center Wednesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. Price Chopper Supermarket in Gardner donates them. Free one dozen Country Hen eggs for residents 60 and over are available every week on Thursdays at 10 a.m. at the senior center. For more information, people may call 978-928-1400, extension 211. A certified SHINE Medicare counselor is available at the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 by appointment.

Birth Announcement



Emmett Joseph Carpenter

BARRE – Emmett Joseph Carpenter, son of Brett and Megan Carpenter, was born on July 3, 2019 at 5:24 p.m. He was 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 21 inches long at birth. He joins his brothers, Landon and Reid.

Grandparents are Thomas and Marianne McGee of Barre and Normand and Susan Carpenter of Harwich, formerly of Oakham.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd. The following meals will be served for the week of Dec. 16.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Greek chicken, steamed white rice, roasted Brussels sprouts, chocolate pudding, diet = diet pudding, pumpernickel bread

TUES. – Meatloaf, gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, Italian bread

WED. – Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, peaches, whole wheat bread

THURS. – Sage stuffed chicken, sour cream and chive mashed potato, roasted carrots, cream puff, French bread

FRI. – Lemon pepper fish, seasoned potatoes, jardiniere vegetables, fresh fruit, marble rye bread, tartar sauce, chicken vegetable soup

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve 8:30-4

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2020 QUABBIN HISTORY CALENDAR

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Barre Housing Authority – Dec. 12 and Jan. 2, 2020 at 3 p.m.
QRSD Special Education Subcommittee – Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m.
QRSD Committee – Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – Dec. 17, Jan. 7, 2020 and Jan. 21, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.
Water Commission – Jan. 2, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Historical Commission – Jan. 6, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – Jan. 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Feb. 5, 2020 at 1 p.m.

HARDWICK

Gilbertville Public Library – Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Dec. 18 at 10 a.m.
Paige Library Trustees – Jan. 2, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Recycling Commission – Jan. 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Library Trustees – Dec. 12, Jan. 2, 2020 and Jan. 9, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Dec. 16, Jan. 6, 2020 and Jan. 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Parks Commission – Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.
Town Center Committee – Dec. 19 and Jan. 16, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Board of Health – Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – Dec. 31 and Jan. 28, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Historical Commission – Jan. 4, 2020 at 10 a.m.
Conservation Commission – Jan. 7, 2020 at 7 p.m.

NEW BRAINTREE

Library Trustees – Dec. 31 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Zoning Board of Appeals – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
Selectboard – Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Dec. 19 and Jan. 2, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – Dec. 26 at 7 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – Jan. 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Jan. 7, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

RUTLAND

Public Hearing Notice/Select Board – Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.
Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – Dec. 17 at 12:08 p.m.

Farm Bureau delegates elect board members

FRAMINGHAM – Dec. 6 concluded the 2019 Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF's) annual meeting, during which delegates voted on board of director positions and discussed and adopted resolutions. They also approved an updated strategic plan for the organization, which will serve as a guide in the coming years.

"Our delegates carefully consider the resolutions placed in front of them, which is why our grassroots policy development process is so well respected," said MFBF president Mark Amato. "This year's resolutions focused on issues ranging from managing pests to college tuition forgiveness and more. Based on the feedback we received from delegates today, MFBF is better able to chart a course of action for 2020."

At the end of this discussion period, MFBF delegates prioritized resolutions that they felt MFBF staff and leadership should tackle first. Following the statewide meeting, if a resolution has national applicability, the MFBF will bring the resolution to American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting in January for consideration.

During the business meeting, delegates also voted on Board of Director positions that were up for election. Following this election, MFBF's 2019-2020 Board of Directors now includes: Mark Amato, President; Laura Abrams, Vice President; Wayne Smith, Treasurer; Vacant, Immediate Past President; Bob Kilmer, Berkshire County Representative; Fred Dabney, Bristol County Representative; Dave Ross, Cape and Islands County Representative; Cliff Taylor, Essex County Representative; Lenny Roberts, Franklin County Representative; Richard Woodjer, Hampden County Representative; Alan Everett, Hampshire County Representative; Rudy Medeiros, Norfolk County Representative; Steve ward, Plymouth County Representative; Ryan MacKay, Worcester County Representative; Robert Parrish, Budget Committee Representative; Charles Proctor, Budget Committee Representative

Will Pickard, Budget Committee Representative; Alex Dowse, Director At Large;

Meghan Gennings, Director At Large; Mike Pineo, Director At Large and Heidi Cooper, Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Chair.

The new board was seated Dec. 6, and will serve until the organization's 2020 annual meeting.

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation is a non-profit organization representing nearly 6,000 family members across the Commonwealth. MFBF is an advocate for farmers, run by farmer members who develop policies through its grassroots process. Its mission is "to protect the rights, encourage the growth, and be of service to its members, in the best interest of agriculture."

For more information about the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, people may visit www.mfbf.net.

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Barre Legion Post 2 installs officers



Turley Publications Photo by Paul F. Murphy

Shown from left are American Legion Post 2 officers - Joe Sanc executive board, Bob Bentley, Scott Tourtellot adjutant, Dennis Fleming Commander, Burt Cummings Sr. vice commander, Chris Tourtellot Jr. vice commander, Charlie Fullam Sgt. at Arms, Tony Musnicki finance officer, Bob Benoit service officer, Dave Hardaker historian, Al Heyes executive board and Kevin Cooley chaplain. Not shown in the photo is Mike Blaney executive board.

Hardwick

Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive fills two SUVs

By Karen A. Lewis
Correspondent

HARDWICK - A huge smile is almost guaranteed when a child receives a new toy.

However, last Saturday the tables were turned as huge smiles were given as children gave away new toys, all in the spirit of the holiday season.

The Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive at the South Barre Rod and Gun Club was a big success, thanks to the help of a generous community and an organization that makes it a priority to give back.

"Our club does many free activities throughout the year for the children in our community and we decided this year to get involved in giving back even more," member and secretary of the Rod and Gun club, Amanda Hosley said. "By teaming up with the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department for the Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive that benefits their Christmas for Kids Program, we thought this was the best way we could help give back to the many needy families in the area during the holiday season."

The local police department has had a history of assisting the community, as this is not the first event they have helped sponsor. For several years when it was held, the It Takes A Village 5k also donated much of their proceeds to support Christmas for Kids.

According to Police Chief James Ayotte, a little over one hundred kids within 44 families living in the Hardwick - New Braintree towns will be helped this holiday season.

"The toy drive went very well," Ayotte said. "We plan to pass out the toys to the families one week before the 25th, weather permitting."

Although the weather was brisk, the sun was shining and the holiday feeling was in the air as Hosley, other members of the South Barre Rod and Gun Club along with Hardwick/New Braintree officers and guest of honor, Santa with one of his reindeer were on hand throughout the day to greet people and to



Turley Publications Courtesy Photos

Hardwick/New Braintree Police Officers Kevin Kokansky, from left and Pat Almstrom stand with Santa in front of two SUVs filled with new toys to be distributed to children in need in the Hardwick/New Braintree community.

thank them for their generosity.

Unfortunately Santa was unable to stay the entire day as he had events in Barre to make sure he attended before heading back up north.

"The event was successful in raising not only toy donations, but awareness for those in need," stated Hosley. "We saw many families come through with their children. It was amazing to see so many teaching their kids to give back to others less fortunate."

Two weeks prior to the toy drive, the rod and gun club held a spaghetti supper, with the main intent to raise money to purchase toys for the upcoming drive.

"Many of our members participated in serving, cleaning and cooking," explained Hosley. "The event was held at our clubhouse and we were able to raise over \$1,300. We had many of our members and people throughout the community attend this event not only made the donation of a ticket, but also brought toys."

Based on the success of the spaghetti supper, Hosley mentioned the club plans to hold it as an annual event moving forward.

"We want to continue to be able to give back in hopes the children and families have the best holiday season they can," expressed Hosley. "We believe it is important to hold these types of toy drives in small communities because these are the children that will one day become



Santa accepts toy donations from Callen Rogowski as father, David and sister, Whitney Jean look on.

members at our club or even members of the police department and will hopefully continue to give back to a program that made a difference in their lives."

Aside from the toy drive, Hosley added the club sponsors the popular kids fishing derby, while teaming up with the Hardwick/New Braintree police department to make fingerprinting kits. This event is annually held in the spring at the Rod and Gun Club.

Ayotte was also grateful to the other local Christmas events, schools, municipal building and the library for willingly accepting new toys that have been passed along to the Christmas for Kids Program.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Holiday Shoppe volunteers needed

The Oakham/New Braintree PTO will be holding its annual Holiday Shoppe the week of the Dec. 16. The Holiday Shoppe will give the students an opportunity to shop for gifts for family/friends/pets this upcoming holiday season. It is so much fun to help the children shop for the presents they so thoughtfully pick out. People interested in helping out this year may email onbpto@gmail.com. They will be holding the Holiday Shoppe in New Braintree Monday and Tuesday morning Dec. 16 and 17. They will be holding the Holiday Shoppe in Oakham Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 17, Wednesday, Dec. 18 and Thursday, Dec. 19. More information about the shop will be coming home with the children. Any volunteers need to be CORI certified. If they haven't been already, they should contact Mary Amidio at the Oakham Center School at 508-882-3392.

Lessons and Carols

The 25th annual Lessons and Carols will be held Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served following the performance by chorus and community orchestra.

Children's pageant

The annual Children's pageant will be held Sunday, Dec. 22 at the 10 a.m. worship service of the Oakham Congregational Church. The rehearsal will be held Saturday, Dec. 21 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Candlelight Service

A Candlelight Service will be held at the Oakham Congregational Church Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Church news

The adult choir of the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, sang "I Hear the Prophet Calling" by Pepper Choplin during the 10 a.m. service. Peter Guilbault, tenor, had a solo part. The Rich family lighted the advent wreath and placed the symbol of Bethlehem to the Advent Banner. The Deacons participated in the service and Chris Nahkala gave the sermon entitled "Good News."

Food pantry offers volunteer opportunity

BARRE – The Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congregational Church, on the common in Barre center welcomes volunteers Thursday, Dec. 19 between 5-7 p.m. to help set up and staff the tables, help clients "shop" the food pantry offerings and help carry groceries to clients' cars.

Community Service hours can be provided for Quabbin Regional High School students, who come to help. For more information, people may call Sonja at 978-355-6921 or Chuck at 978-355-6463

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Opinion

Column

Enjoying the Christmas lights

This is a great time of year to take a drive around town to look at Christmas lights. Last week’s snow offered a great backdrop.

Barre and many neighboring towns turned on the lights on their commons this past weekend. My grandchildren, James and Lizzie, noticed the lights were on the gazebo on the Oakham Common on the way home yesterday from their after school program. They really liked the multi-colored lights on the gazebo and a small tree by the Fobes Memorial Library. Across from the common, the Oakham Congregational Church had a spotlight shining on its wooden cutout nativity figures and manager. James and Lizzie liked the shadow the nativity scene cast on the white front of the church.

Whenever, I have any of my grandchildren with me this time of year, we look for Christmas lights. We see who spots the lights first.

When I was a child, my father always took his family for a drive to look at Christmas lights. Back in the fifties, the lights were not as elaborate and colorful as they are today. A neighbor always put blue lights on the bushes in front of their home. The majority of lights were white, but there were other colors as well.

We had some lights that I think had oil in them and bubbled. They were an electrical hazard. The cord was covered in fabric insulation. When the fabric frayed, people could get a shock. Worse, they could cause a fire.

My mother read in the newspaper that the bubbling lights could explode and cause a fire or injury to children. She got rid of our set after she read the article.

Although we spent Christmas at home, we always went to my dad’s Aunt Viola, who lived in Rhode Island the weekend after Christmas. We all looked forward to a second Christmas. On the way home, my dad took a different route so we could see all the lights in downtown Providence.

I hope everyone can take some time to look at the Christmas lights as they travel at night. Many people set up elaborate displays. It is the season to enjoy the brightness of lights on a cold, winter night.



Ellenor Downer

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude, the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

I watched the cleaner this week to see where she dusted and vacuumed. I know that parts of the computer room are off limits because of Missy’s papers and projects. Missy takes care of the area by her desk and the cleaner only dusts the other part of the room and vacuums the rug.

Goody, I have discovered just the place to put my “treasures” for safe keeping now that Missy’s daughter will want her slippers once the snow comes and she takes off her boots. Under the computer desk, there is a shelf that holds printer paper and a box with something in it. The flaps are closed, but they sink in just enough for me to put my “treasures” on top of it. Yep, it is just the place. Now the problem is solved.

Today I went in the living room in the rocking chair for my morning nap. I was hardly asleep when I heard...Crash, bang, and then “Darn, darn! darn!” came out of Missy’s mouth. It seem she was trying to get a special pan out of the corner cupboard, but instead caught the handle of the small roaster which came tumbling out on the floor. I am glad that someone else besides me has problems now and then. Missy put the roaster back and got out the proper pan.

If what she is baking smells delicious I can testify to her cooking skills. I usually get some tidbits. Yum, yum, Christmas time is coming and Missy is getting out decorations. I suppose there will be a tree again. It’s pretty, but the best thing for me is getting a drink of water from the bucket under the tree. I am looking forward to some catnip being under the tree. I love that stuff, it is yummy. I should tell Missy to put an extra supply in for the winter. Enjoy your week.

Love, Gertrude



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
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In Past Pages

5 years ago (Dec. 11, 2014)

There’s a new guy in town and on the wrestling scene at Quabbin Regional High School. Mike Adams is more than pleased to join the Panther family as he takes the lead as the Quabbin varsity wrestling coach. “He’s a real nice individual,” Quabbin Athletic Director, Ted Gumula said. “We’re fortunate he stepped forward. He has the kid’s interest at heart and wants them to be successful.” Replacing ten-year coach Dick Hengst, Adams actually came on board last year as the middle school wrestling coach and was well received. When the high school position became open, it seemed like a natural progression. “I’ve felt very welcomed at Quabbin,” Adams said. “All the kids that I bump into that I don’t even know will wish me and the team luck. I hope to be here for a long period of time.”

They’re back and they’re ready. Exciting things are on the verge of happening for the Quabbin varsity boys’ basketball team this season. Taking the helm for his 35th season, coach Dennis Dextradeur is enthusiastic about the prospects of his current team. After making it to the District Semifinals last year with an overall 13-10 record, Quabbin has the bulk of their team back, losing only forward Andrew Haley and point guard Dylan Kiernan to graduation. In a rare move, this year’s five seniors, twin brothers Collin and Griffin Bennett, Matthew Newell, Jacob Lanpher and Randy White will also share captain duties.

The family of John Hartly and other organizers held a tribute to honor John P. Hartly Sr. Among the many people that congratulated John was Master Sergeant John Szklarz, who just completed a nine-month tour of duty in Afghanistan. Szklarz arrived at his mother-in-law’s home in Royalston and she told him about the tribute and took him to visit “The Cross” at John Hartly’s Barre farm. He was delighted to be able to shake John Hartly’s hand. He has now returned home to Alaska where his wife and most of his eight children reside.

10 years ago (Dec. 17, 2009)

Pvt. Joshua A. Przypek, USMC, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion graduated from U.S.MCRD Parris Island, SC, after completing a 12-week boot camp and Crucible Training and received a National Defense Award. Joshua A. Przypek is the son of Mark and stepson of Robin Przypek of Barre and son of Angela Bujneviciu. Joshua has an extended family of stepbrothers, Kyle and Tyler; a sister, Marissa; and half brother and sister, Evyn and Megyn. Pvt. Przypek will be heading for his Infantry Battalion after the New Year.

Fitchburg State women’s basketball junior forward and Hubbardston native Melissa Proffitt has been named to the MASCAC Women’s Basketball Player of the Week for her performance the week of Dec. 7-13. Proffitt averaged 12.3 points and 8.7 rebounds in 3-0 week for Falcons, includ-

LOOK BACK
Horses on the Common - 1994



Turley Publications File Photo

Arthur Frost and his daughter Emma visit with big Jerry and his master, Mark Korzec. Korzec and his horse added to the ambiance of the holiday festivities in Barre the first weekend in December, with wagon rides around the Common.

ing double-double efforts of 20 points and 11 boards in 77-71 victory at Emerson and 13 points and 11 caroms in a 52-44 victory over Western New England.

Listening’s fall fashion show was a stunning success. Over 100 guests were wowed first by the full parking lot and then the enthusiastic crowd at Hartman’s Herb Farm. Walking in, participants were greeted by live music by jazz duo Greg Martiros and Russell Killough-Miller, who set the mood for the cocktail and hor d’oeuvres hour. Guests were welcomed by Senior Yoga students Pat Sibley, Mary Beschta and Nancy Skamarycz, who sold raffle tickets for a cord of wood from Carter and Stevens Farm as well as chances for a holiday baker’s and breakfast baskets. The runway was lined with chairs and lit with spotlights set up by Melanie Donovan, technical coordinator from The Center at Eagle Hill. Tom Halgren, Barre’s #1 ballroom dance instructor, served as master of ceremonies for the night. Music was provided by Christine Word, compiled by Jeanneane Pugliese and run by Rich Giordano. The show was introduced by Senior Yoga Program instructor, Beverly Duda. “This show is dedicated to all the seniors who come to yoga every week,” said Duda. “I so appreciate the honor and privilege it is to serve such a fine group of people. Every class we all see the change in ourselves, our bodies, our awareness, our confidence, and relationships to others. Friendships are made in these classes that extend beyond the studio. My goal is to help keep these Seniors healthy, mobile and happy.”

25 years ago (Dec. 15, 1994)

Donald Stevens, son of Philip and Erin Stevens of Barre, made

a covered wagon for a school project. Fifth graders at Ruggles Lane School have been studying about wagon trains heading west and each had to do a project on the lesson. Donald and his cousin, Bruce McDonald, cut down saplings, bent them and attached them to a wagon on the Stevens’ farm. Donald’s mother brought the wagon to school using a tractor, and children were treated to a ride around the parking lot.

Panther Products, a Junior Achievement company at Quabbin Regional High School sponsored by Barre Savings Bank, elected officers recently. Officers and advisors include: Kathy Salvatore, advisor; Robin Wiinikka, vice president of finance; Heather Civiok, vice president of production; Michelle Demars, vice president human resources; Dana Miller, advisor; Peggy Miller, advisor; Adam Bishop, vice president of marketing; Tom Shamgochian, president; Paul Cranston, advisor; and Bob Dwelly, advisor.

Bill Gauld, the environmental science teacher at Quabbin owns a Christmas tree farm in Sterling. It has become a tradition for members of Quabbin’s Symphonic Winds and this year the Choir also, to perform for the customers as they pick out their trees. The weather was particularly cooperative this year for instrumentalists: Chad Mirable, Kyle Musnicki, Paul Kittredge, Alden Raymond, Anthony Pereira and Bob Pereira and singers Laurallee Payne, Amanda DeSisto, Kyle Musnicki, Toni Musnicki, Seth Stickle, Lori Stokes, Jeremy Brant, Paul Kittredge, Charlie Kittredge, Ellen Kittredge, Julie Rawson and Julie Freebern.

Donald Stevens, son of Philip and Erin Stevens of Barre, made

Letter to The Editor

All religious holidays need to be tolerated

Christmas is a little more two weeks away and once again the subjugation of American Christians is underway. Sadly our school system is leading the charge.

The premise, apparently is that other religious groups will be offended if we Christians have the audacity to celebrate one of the most holy days of our year.

Manger scenes are banned from our town commons. Christmas trees are now “holiday” trees and are barely tolerated. Schools schedule “holiday” concerts carefully orchestrated to exclude any warmth or joy.

“Silent Night” is an abomination. “Oh, Holy Night” is considered wholly offensive and “The Little Drummer Boy” has had his drumsticks replaced by a dreidel or perhaps a crescent moon.

Our children are being taught to understand and honor the traditions of the wide variety of religion groups that make up our culture. And this is not a bad thing. The problem is, they are not being allowed to celebrate their own.

The child of a friend came home from school recently singing “I Have a Little Dreidel” but was not allowed to sing “Oh, Holy Night” in the same school.

I would like to see a manger scene on the town commons of all our towns again. I would like to see the commons made available for all religions to celebrate their special holidays.

The progressive thinkers trying to take the Christmas out of Christmas need to remember that this nation was founded by people seeking religious freedom. We need to encourage that freedom for all religions; even Christians.

Sincerely
Joe Mitko

Reader urges support of House Bill 1348

I write to draw attention to and support for House Bill 1348, relative to the “Expansion of the Good Samaritan Law.”

The Bill was filed by Representative Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. on behalf of the Barre Council on Aging and co-sponsored by Senator Anne M. Gobi and twenty-seven other legislators. The Bill was referred to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and support for the Bill was presented at a hearing before the Committee on 09/24/2019. The Bill remains before the Committee.

The need for such an expansion of the law was created when our town insurance carrier deemed our Friendly (volunteer) Driver program had the potential of too much liability for the town and the town administrator advised the senior center director to cease the operation. We now have no volunteer drivers.

Good Samaritan Laws are available to protect from legal liability: donors of food, anyone rendering care to accident or crime victims, or to anyone in need of emergency medical assistance. Volunteer drivers deserve the same legal protection.

Transportation is a quality of life issue. Those of us living in rural areas do not have public transportation available, and many of our elders do not have driving privileges. Anyone without available transportation to shopping, medical appointments, religious services, family visits, social activities, etc., will have their quality of life suffer severely. This Bill will prevent that.

Government agencies at every level realize the impact that transportation has on the lives of their constituents, and are constantly looking at ways for improvement. Unfortunately, most solutions require more public funds. This Bill will address the problem with no public funds.

Please encourage your legislators to support House Bill 1348.

Thank you,
Richard Whipplee,
Barre

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Letters to the Editor
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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Colleen Montague
cmont@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Wow, we were really snowed in with a record for the day of 25 inches of snow followed with 2.3 inches more. Where do we put the snow that is to come?

I was sorry not to be able to attend my favorite Christmas fair, the Gingerbread Fair at the Unitarian Church. I did not want to get stuck in our driveway even though the roads were excellent. The highway department did a wonderful job. I went to Gardner the day before the second snow came and the roads were bare.

I went through some of the recipes for Christmas cookies and found this one that sounds rather easy. I will try it this week.

CHEWY PECAN GINGERSNAP TRIANGLES

20 gingersnap cookies, broken in half
1/2-cup butter, softened
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1 egg, separated
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tsp. water
1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line

bottom and sides of 13 x 9 inch baking pan with foil, leaving 2-inch overhang. Spray foil with nonstick cooking spray. Place gingersnap cookies in a food processor, process until crumbs form. Beat butter, sugars, egg yolks and vanilla in medium bowl with electric mixer until well blended. Add cookie crumbs and salt; mix well. Lightly press crumb mixture into bottom of prepared pan to form thin crust.

Whisk egg white and water in a small bowl. Brush egg white mixture evenly over crust; sprinkle evenly with pecans. Press pecans in lightly to adhere to crust.

Bake 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Use foil handles to remove bars from pan to cutting board. Cut into 3-inch squares; cut squares diagonally in half. Makes 24 triangles.

This and That

Christmas gift shopping is done now so I can concentrate on the baking. I don't plan to make a lot of things as I am trying to stay away from sweets. My house is decorated as much as it is going to be.

My orchids are both in full bloom;

I think they are pretty on the den table. I don't think I will purchase a poinsettia, as the Mason's will be bringing one to Ken for Christmas. The orchids were in an east window and really came to life. As soon as they are done blooming, I will bring them back to that window. I have a white one and a multicolor pink one. You just put an ice cube or two in them about twice a week.

I'm starting to get lots of Christmas cards and have mailed mine out. I also mailed the packages that had to be sent.

One of the wreaths hanging on the window by the front door came down in the storm so I need to put that back up. I don't like to climb ladders though.

I had a nice visit with our grandson from Orono College at Thanksgiving. I always ask him if he needs anything and this time he wanted a turkey-roasting pan, which I had in my storage area. He likes to cook and has a nice apartment with three other roommates.

I hope you are all enjoying the holiday season and not getting too stressed out. Happy holidays.

In My Backyard by Ellenor Downer

In winter the red-breasted nuthatch is an irruptive species to this area from the north. It is about four and a half inches long and smaller than its cousin the white-breasted nuthatch.

The male red-breasted nuthatch has a black cap and richly colored rusty under parts. The female has a gray and lighter colored under parts. Both sexes have a black eye line and slate colored back, wings and tail. A white eyebrow separates the cap and eye line.

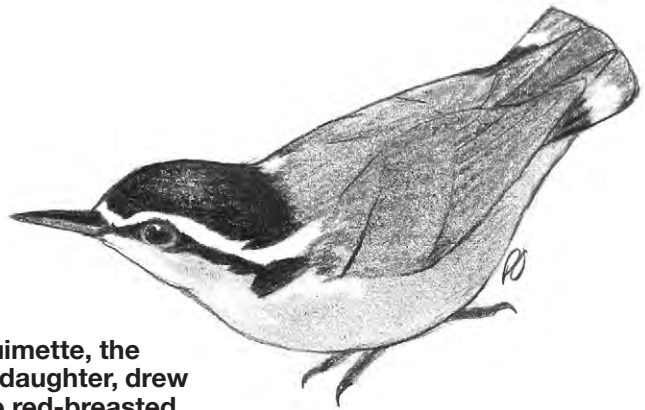
Like the white-breasted nuthatch they have a short tail and long beak. Nuthatches creep face down the trunks of trees searching for insects. They also eat the seeds of conifers and will come to feeders for sunflower seeds and suet.

The female lays five to seven white eggs or pinkish eggs with brown speckles. They make a nest of rootlets, grasses, mosses and shredded bark in an excavated hole, birdhouse or abandoned woodpecker hole. The nuthatch smears pitch around the entrance of the nest cavity to deter predators.

I keep looking for the red-breasted nuthatch, but so far I only saw it once.

Snowstorm

My birdfeeder and suet holders had a lot of activity during the Dec. 2 and 3 snowstorm. I always enjoy seeing the cardinals especially the bright red male with a backdrop of fresh snow. The blue jays also brighten the



Paula Ouimette, the author's daughter, drew this male red-breasted nuthatch.

white landscape. I also had mourning doves, tufted titmice, downy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers, dark-eyed juncos, white-breasted nuthatches and black-capped chickadees.

I had a seed covered suet but that fell into the snow during the storm. The squirrels dug through the snow to reach it. I looked out the window and saw a gray bushy tail sticking out of the hole. The squirrels soon finished off what was left of the suet seed treat.

Large flock of Canada geese

Sunday, Dec. 1 before it started to snow, I spotted a large flock of Canada geese flying over Ware. There were at least 100 geese and they headed south. They formed several vee formations. Geese in the back of the

formation replaced the lead birds to give them a rest.

Gift ideas for young birders

A Christmas gift of a field guide, laminated bird folding bird chart, binoculars, bird feeder, birdseed and more make a great gift for a child. It is a way to introduce them to bird feeding and watching. It is fun to sit by a window during a storm and watch birds at a feeder. The child can then identify the birds and start a life list. My mother and paternal grandmother introduced me to watching birds when I was a child. Now my grandchildren enjoy bird watching.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling 413-967-3505 or emailing either mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com.

Guest Column

Christmas potpourri at your finger tips

Here is an article from the archives. What is old is new again when someone makes an inquiry, and this time it is about potpourri. Enjoy the scents of the season with the recommendations outlined below.

The heyday for potpourri has come and gone. I think mass production finally caused us to turn our noses up at the stuff. Instead of rose buds and lavender blossoms making up the majority of the mix, brightly colored and strongly-scented cedar chips came on to the scene. It was available everywhere. Yuck. Let's go back in time when it was made in small batches, and it was as pretty to look at as it was to smell. I've got a great, easy to make recipe that will remind you of the holiday season. Start saving ingredients now to tailor your potpourri to your own specific Christmas traditions.

The bulk of the potpourri will be needles from your holiday tree or wreath. Balsam is especially fragrant, but other piney scents are nice too. You can use one type of green or a combination. Berried juniper is an appealing addition, its foliage has great textural appeal and the silvery berries really stand out. Holly also has a uniquely shaped leaf, but handle with care; it sure is picky! Altogether you will need six cups of greens.

You can also begin to save the flowers from your fresh holiday arrangements. Red roses and carnations will dry to a pleasing, deep wine color as long as you don't wait too long to do it. Pull them from the arrangement and hang them in the dark before they start to go by. Once

dried, flower heads can be used whole or petals can be stripped from the flower. You will need about three cups of these.

Dry indoor air makes dehydrating fruit easy to do this time of year. Thin slices of citrus fruit or apples can be strung with cranberries as an attractive garland for your Christmas tree. When the holidays are over set aside three cups for use in your potpourri. Too much work? Then save the peels from your oranges as they air dry effortlessly and when crushed will add tremendous fragrance and a hint of color to your blend.

Choosing which spices to use is fun. Which appeal to you? Star anise is nice for both its licorice scent and unique star shape. Cinnamon stick, whole allspice berries, cloves and nutmeg are also great aromatic alternatives. To purchase these inexpensively, try the bulk section of the local herbal apothecary or Whole Foods market. Use a cup of each of your favorites.

You can also incorporate small pine cones, (hemlock work great!), tree bark, moss, whole nuts, rose hips, bay leaves or other herbs into your potpourri, whatever is reminiscent of your holiday and achieves the look and/or fragrance you desire.

Once you have gathered all of your ingredients, it's time to blend them together. I like to use a large stock pot or other good-size container. Simply dump everything in and immerse your

hands in there, stirring and crushing as you go to release the various scents.

When you are finished, stand back and scrutinize your creation. Start with your nose. Does it need more fragrance? If so, consider using a fixative. Orrisroot is one of the most common and readily available fixatives. It will take on the smell

of what you add to it, stabilizing the scent of your potpourri.

In a separate container mix a dram of your favorite essential oil into the orrisroot first, then add it to the potpourri. I prefer the use of essential oils over fragrance oils, they remind me too much of the aforementioned cedar chip recipes. Handle essential oils with care, however, since they are quite concentrated. Now assess its appearance. Could it use more of something color-wise or shape-wise? If so, start saving. Your potpourri can become a work in progress and maybe even a gift idea for next Christmas! Store cool and dry in a sealed container prior to placing out and about your home.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Trifilo who donated the tree, it went on to Mrs. Bernice Branzovich who gave the lights, and to all those who donated money for the electricity including the Gallant Printing Shop who gave a month's supply.

Francis P. Duncan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Duncan of Petersham, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of airman first class. Duncan is an administration specialist at Pease Air Force Base, N.H., with the 509th Supply Squadron.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

38 years ago (Dec. 16, 1981)

A unanimous vote by the selectmen Monday evening adopted on a temporary basis that Common Street, from the post office past the Barre Savings Bank to South Street would be one-way. This is a temporary measure as yet as the board wants to see if the new traffic flow would solve the problem of a hazard at the intersection of Grove and Common Streets.

The South Barre Common now has a Christmas tree and its lights were turned on. The bright star on the pinnacle of this full evergreen sent "radiant beams" into the cold night air. Many were there to observe this event. Romeo Salvatore, master of ceremonies welcomed the youngsters and parents, and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen J. Howard Thompson also spoke. Soon after, Santa Claus arrived via the South Barre Fire Truck and children's eyes became big with wonder. The Christmas spirit had invaded South Barre. It had touched

Great Falls Discovery Center list events

TURNERS FALL – The Department of Conservation and Recreation Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, is open five days a week Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be open special hours during December vacation from Dec. 26 through Jan. 5, 2020. It is closed Christmas Day, but open New Year's Day.

All programs are free to the public unless otherwise noted, such as a suggested donation. Admission to the center is free. Facilities are accessible. An adult must accompany children.

Now through Jan. 3, Great Falls Discovery Center will hold the 2019 Junior Duck Stamps art exhibit. Young students from kindergarten to high school submit artwork for a statewide art contest. In the process, they gain awareness of the importance of preserving wetland habitats and the delights of wildlife.

Kidleidoscope story hour is held

Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Great Hall. The topic for Dec. 20 is winter birds and Dec. 27, river otters.

Participants will learn about the wildlife neighbors who share the Connecticut River Watershed. Program includes a story, activities and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. The program is for ages 3-6, who are accompanied by an adult. Siblings and friends are welcome.

Friday, Dec. 13 from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a program in Great Hall entitled "It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls for the Birds."

Participants will craft bird feeder as part of town-wide RiverCulture event. It is for all ages.

Friday, Dec. 13 there will be a free, art in motion dance performance from 5:30-6 p.m. in Great Hall. This is part of "It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls." A Turners Falls based creative dance company for elementary children will present

an informal showing of their newest dance piece, an exploration of what it means to be at once a unique individual and a member of a group.

Great Falls Discovery Center will be open more hours for a special December vacation week. The center will have investigation stations and more Dec. 26 through Jan. 5.

Saturday, Dec. 28 there will be a family program entitled "Rocking with the Fossils" in Great Hall from 1-2 p.m. For ages 6-12 children with their grown-ups and siblings. Children will make their own fossil.

There will be a First Day Hike Wednesday, Jan. 1 from 1-3 p.m. The hike will be a three-mile stroll down the Canalside Trail. People should meet at 1 p.m. in Great Hall. The hike begins at 1:15 p.m. People should dress for the weather. Dogs are welcome on leash. Afterward, participants will enjoy a cup of hot chocolate in the Discovery Center's Great Hall.

OAKHAM, continued from page 1

then reappoint him for a three-year period to keep with the current appointment schedule.

Accountant training

Wilson requested online training. He said it was a one-on-one session for up to eight hours and would cost \$1,272. He said he planned to make a list of the things he needed help with so the training would concentrate on that and not what he already knows. He said he would split the hours into two sessions as it would be easier for him to absorb.

Selectmen approved to fund the training. Paul Rochette, chair of the finance committee, said the money would come from a reserve fund transfer.

Selectmen conducted all business before them in 30 minutes.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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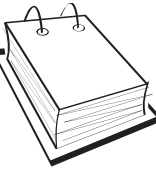
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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, DEC. 12

2020 QUABBIN SAVINGS CARD will be offered by the Barre Library Association to benefit the Woods Memorial. The cost of the card is \$10 and with the purchase of card during the months of December, January and part of February, people can enter their gift basket drawing giveaway. Cards can purchased at: Woods Memorial Library, The Country Gourmet, Shear Expressions from Jen, as well as various local holiday fairs and the Hardwick Farmers Co-op Dec. 14 and 15. For more information, people may contact Kate Lathrop at 978-355-2119 or Susan Morrall at 978-355-2777.

MOC CFCE PLAYGROUPS will be held on Thursdays at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre from 10:30-11:45 a.m. All MOC Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) playgroups are free with focus on early literacy, cognitive development and STEM and sponsored by Montachusett Opportunity Council with funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care.

SENIOR YOGA will be held at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre from 9-10 a.m. Thursdays and Tuesdays. Cost is \$5. These sessions are “chair yoga,” which means you remain seated (no getting up and down off the floor, etc.). They are primarily stretching, breathing and meditation exercises, which are not physically demanding. For more information, people may visit www.listeningwellness.org or call 978-355-3501. People do not need to be a senior to participate.

POOL will be played daily at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre at 9 a.m.

BINGO will be played daily at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre at 10:15 a.m.

WHIST will be played daily at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre at 10:30 a.m.

SENIOR LUNCH will be offered at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre Monday through Friday at 11:45 a.m. Call Jayne at 978-355-5027 to reserve your meal or Worcester Elder Services at 508-799-8070 and a \$2.50 donation is appreciated.

BARRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 18 Common St., is open every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and always by appointment. To schedule an appointment, people may call Margaret Marshall at 978-257-7653. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about local history.

STORY TIME for 3 years olds will be held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at the Rutland Free Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland. For more information, people may stop by the library or call 508-886-4108.

FREE KNITTING LESSONS will be offered at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville for anyone that is 12 years of age or older. The lessons will be offered on Thursdays from 2:30-4 p.m. and will be free of charge. Knitting needles and yarn will be supplied. For more information, people may stop by or call the library at 413-477-6312.

WALKING CLUB will be held at the

CALENDAR POLICY

Our calendar section is intended to promote “free” events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit is not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items in the mail, by fax, or emailed in Word document format is Monday at noon or sooner. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation, and contact information. All future listings appear weekly online.

Places to go... Things to do...



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Kids activities at the Library

Sat., Dec. 14th • 10-3

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Oakham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505 with their answer by noon on Monday, Dec. 16. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Dick Clark correctly identified last week's photo. Last week's photo was the entrance to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Rte. 68 in North Brookfield.

Hubbardston Senior Center, Main St., Hubbardston
Thursdays and Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

HUBBARDSTON SENIOR CENTER MEALS BY MOC will be offered at the center, Main St., Hubbardston Thursdays and Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ART will be held at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Rd., Hardwick, every Thursday from 5-7 p.m. This program is for those who want to explore art media, to share ideas or to just work in a group setting. For more information, people may call 413-477-6704, email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, visit www.paigelibrary.com or www.facebook.com/paigelibrary.

‘THE NAUGHTY BUT NICE STITCHERS’ KNITTING AND CROCHET CLUB meets at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville every Thursday from 2:30-4 p.m. New people with any skill level are always welcome to join the group. In addition to their own hand-crafted projects, they will be making hats, mittens and sweaters for children in Gilbertville as well as contributing some of these items to the World Vision/Knit for Kids Organization. The Naughty but Nice Stitchers are asking for donations of unused yarns and size 7 or 8 knitting needles for use on these projects. For more information, people may stop by or call the library at 413-477-6312.

TEA AT THREE will be held at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Rd., Hardwick on Thursdays at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend and enjoy tea (or coffee), treats and talk. For more information, people may email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704 or visit either www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ or [www.paigelibrary](http://www.paigelibrary.com).

FOSTER PARENT INFO SESSION will be held at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On the second Thursday of the month a DCF Foster Care Recruiter will be present to discuss the process and answer questions regarding Foster Care. For more information, people may contact Katherine Keefe at Katherine.A.Keefe@state.ma.us.

MASSACHUSETTS LOCAL FOOD CO-OP has opened a pick-up site at the Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., Barre on the second Thursday of every month from 4-6 p.m., year round. Area residents who join the co-op will be able to pick up fresh products that they have pre-orders from several area

farms. Some of the items available include seasonal produce, meat, shrimp, eggs, dairy, baked goods, granola, jam, coffee, herbal tea, grains, chocolates, flour, prepared foods, hand-crafted soaps/lotions, dog treats, live plants, fruits and berries. All products must be grown/made in Massachusetts or have value added in Massachusetts. No meat, produce or primary ingredients can be from CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) or contain GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) and most member farms use humane, sustainable or verified organic growing practices. To become a member-owner, people purchase a \$50 share in the business (which is bought back if you leave the co-op) and pay \$10 annually (which is waived if you volunteer at least 2 hours per year). A 7% operation fee is charged only on the items purchased in order to buy supplies, print invoices, pay rent, etc. For more information, people may visit www.masslocalfood.org.

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT will be held at the Hubbardston Senior Center, Main St., Hubbardston the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

‘PLAID TIDINGS’ A SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION OF FOREVER PLAID will be performed at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St., Barre, today and Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. General admission is \$20 and seniors and children are \$15. To reserve tickets, people may visit barreplayerstheater.com or call 978-355-2096.

THE LIGHTS OF BARRE HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST JUDGING will be held today, Dec. 14 and 15 from 5-8:30 p.m. Those touring the lights will be asked to remain in their cars. Maps/ballots will be sold for a \$1 donation to the Ruggles Lane School PTO and can be purchased at Barre Family Pharmacy during regular business hours, at Breakfast with Santa Dec. 14 from 8-10 a.m. at Ruggles Lane School, or if your child is a student at Ruggles Lane School, at the school. All votes must be submitted by Tuesday, Dec. 17. Maps/voting ballots can be returned to Barre Family Pharmacy, or if you have a student at Ruggles Lane School, to the school office. The winners of the contest will be announced on The Ruggles Lane School Facebook page on Dec. 20. For more information, people may contact RugglesLanePTO@gmail.com.

MOC CFCE PLAYGROUPS will be held on Fridays at the Hardwick Youth/Family Center, located above the police station/municipal offices, 307 Main St., Gilbertville from 9:30-11:30 a.m. All MOC Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) playgroups are free with focus on early literacy, cognitive development and STEM and sponsored by Montachusett Opportunity Council with funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care.

CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION meets at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre every Friday morning at 10 a.m. for creation and conversation. All are welcome to attend.

CRIBBAGE will be played at the Hubbardston Senior Center, Main St., Hubbardston at 1:30 p.m.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH CLUB (CYC) will meet on Fridays at New Life Assembly of God, 60 Main St., South Barre from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The group will meet September to June. Club is for school age boys and girls who want time with friends, fun, and learning about God and His love for them. Parents are encouraged to come and meet the leaders when they drop off their children. For more information, people may email barreclub@gmail.com.

MOTHER GOOSE TIME for 0-2 year olds will be held on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. at the Rutland Free Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland. For more information, people may stop by the library or call 508-886-4108.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP will be offered by

the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC and Faith and Family Hospice of Marlborough in the church office, 36 North Main St., West Brookfield on Fridays at 5 p.m. Sessions will be offered for 6 weeks with a 2 week break between the next. There is no limit to the number of times an individual can sign up for this program. The group is open to all ages and all kinds of losses. People may call the church office at 508-867-7078 to indicate they will be attending or email 1stcongo.westbrookfield@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

BAND OF VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange St., Barre at 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IN NEW BRAINTREE CRAFT FAIR will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall, Memorial Drive.

ST. PETER’S CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in St. Peter’s Church hall, 18 North St., Petersham from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items for sale include: Christmas cookies by the pound, fudge, baked goods, Christmas swags and baskets, table arrangements, floral arrangements, table runners, candle centerpieces, large, medium and small hanging balls, star ornaments, handmade Christmas decorations and more. Coffee, tea and cider are available for purchase.

MESA FARM’S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE OF ‘THE LIVING NATIVITY’ will be held today and tomorrow at 67 Muschopauge Rd., Rutland with performances at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. each day. Enjoy the live reenactment of the birth of Christ, where volunteer actors, singers and live animals bring to life the meaning of Christmas. Admission is free. Sunday’s performances will have sign language interpretation. Please bring a plate of cookies to share. For more information, people may call 508-886-6898 or visit www.mesafarmrutland.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

HOLIDAY COOKIE SWAP will be held at the No. 4 Schoolhouse, 209 Farrington Rd., Barre at 2 p.m. Bring three dozen cookies to swap and a few extras to enjoy during the exchange. A \$5 donation is requested in exchange for taking home a mix of three dozen cookies. Registration is suggested by emailing no4schoolhouse@gmail.com or by calling Joyce at 978-355-2005. Their Giant Raffle winners’ names will be pulled at 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 16

LINE DANCING will be offered at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre from 11 a.m. to noon with dance instructor J.P. Ellery. People of all ages and from surrounding towns are welcome to attend.

TAI CHI CLASSES will be led by Barre resident Roger Currier at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., at 1 p.m. Classes are expected to last 30-45 minutes. Classes are planned for 3 days a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at a cost of \$5 per week (for 3 classes). This form of Tai Chi is geared toward seniors and is designed to gently loosen muscles, joints and strengthen one’s inner core. It is not rigorous and does not involve physical exertion. To sign up for the class or for more information, people may call the senior center at 978-355-5004.

WII BOWLING will be played every Monday at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre at 2 p.m.

BINGO will be held at the Hubbardston Senior Center, Main St., Hubbardston at 12:30 p.m.

ADULT COLORING GROUP will meet at Haston Free Public Library, North Brookfield every Monday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Coloring pages and pencils are available or people can bring their own supplies. All are welcome. For more information, people may call the library at 508-867-0208.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

MOC CFCE PLAYGROUPS will be held on Tuesdays at MOC Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE), 21 Allen Dr., Barre from 10-11:15 a.m. All MOC Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) playgroups are free with focus on early literacy, cognitive development and STEM and sponsored by Montachusett Opportunity Council with funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care.

ART group will be held at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Tuesday at 9 a.m. The cost is \$20 for 5 classes with supplies included.

BINGO will be played at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Tuesday at 10:15 a.m.

CRIBBAGE will be played at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

SCAT will be played at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

QUILTING CLASSES will be offered at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Tuesday from 12:30-2:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 for 10 weeks.



North Brookfield

PTO holds merry holiday fair

By Karen A. Lewis
Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A little snow couldn't keep the crowds away from one of the most anticipated evenings of the year at North Brookfield Elementary School, the annual PTO Holiday Fair last Friday night.

"It's very fun," said North Brookfield Girl Scout Reilly Ireland, who was selling lots of goodies with her Scout friends. "We see new people and we can look at everything."

The Girl Scouts were just one of

about 60 vendors and organizations, who set up shop throughout the school selling their wares.

In the case of Girl Scout Troop 65003, profits made from their sales of treats and cookie mixes in a jar, will be helping to fund badges and upcoming trips to the Escape Room and the Museum of Science in Boston.

"We get so many varieties of vendors, there is usually something for everyone," said North Brookfield PTO secretary and holiday fair chairman Jessica Wisniewski. "We've had vendors come as far away as Rhode

Island."

Handmade crafts, beauty products, food, jewelry, homemade ice cream and more delighted shoppers as they had plenty to choose from.

"We try to come here every year," said North Brookfield resident Janee Robbins, who attended with her husband Barry. "We like the homemade ice cream and think overall it's really good for a little fair."

Vendor Emily LaFleche, who was selling handmade gifts, found a little time to shop for herself and was thrilled with her purchase from a painter - Paintings by dB -

who had her booth in the next spot over.

"There's a lot of vendors compared to other fairs I go to," LaFleche said. "I like making money and I like making crafts. It's nice when doing something you love can also be lucrative."

Even the PTO got into the act and had their traditional raffle table with dozens of donated items.

"It's our biggest part of fund-raising," said Wisniewski. "We are a fairly small but extremely active PTO."

The majority of all funds raised will go to teacher requests for supplies, books and field trip busses.

Unlike neighboring towns where the PTOs are busy in the elementary schools and don't have the funds to spread it to the upper grades, the North Brookfield PTO has fulfilled requests made by the entire school district.

Special guest Sparky the Fire Prevention Dog saved the date in advance, manning a table with the North Brookfield Fire Department, handing out literature to kids and adults about fire safety.

"We like to educate the public about fire prevention," North Brookfield Fire Captain Keith Marshall said. "This is the second year we've been at this fair, we like to do outreach."The PTO closes out their calendar year of events this coming Friday when they sponsor, "Cocoa with Cops."



North Brookfield eighth-graders Taylor Chapin, from left, Amanda Seidler, Kailey Dutter, Jake Standrowicz, Brayden Ferriter and Kasey Dutter sell scarves at the fair to raise money for their upcoming Washington D.C. trip in the spring.



Turley Publications correspondent photos by Karen A. Lewis
North Brookfield Girl Scouts, Brooke LeBel, Reilly Ireland and Harper Bradley, sell treats and cookies in a jar at the North Brookfield PTO Holiday Fair last Friday night.

HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 1

impartial and local volunteers who graciously gave up part of their morning to adjudicate a handful of edible creations.

"This was a great turnout for its first time," judge Janice Hamel said, regarding he number of entries. "The brunch is such a nice community event."

"There is a lot of creativity and a lot of detail," said fellow judge Sandy Nason. All of the judges were impressed about the unusual materials used – cereal, gum and pretzels, adding that it made it difficult to select winners because each was unique in their own special way.

However winners were chosen in different categories and included Evelyn Lord (under 8 years), Lizzie Matheson (9 to 11 years), Mabel Matheson (13 to 17 years) and the Gobars as the family winners.

Young was grateful for the food donations from Giacomo's, Hubbardston Town Diner and Heywood Hospital and added any funds raised go back into the revolving special events account of the town, which enables Young to continue to offer events to the town



Turley Publications Photos by Karen A. Lewis
Five year old Andrei Timofeev from Hubbardston talks with Santa as mother Anna, left, snaps a photo and Santa's elf Jo-Anne Muldoon looks on.

and the community during the year.

Also happening throughout the town is the annual Hubbardston Light Fight, where residents for a \$20 entrance fee could enter their home if they thought it met light fight standards.

Viewing began last week-

end and continues this Friday through Sunday from 5-8 p.m. A total of 19 homes entered the contest this year, with maps to the homes on display available by visiting the Hubbardston Town website, looking under Special Events.

LESSONS AND CAROLS, continued from page 1

the Oakham church and Peter Lewis, conductor of the Quabbin Regional High School Band and the Quabbin Community Band. This year's orchestra includes players from middle school through retirement. Mixing players from the school's band and orchestra with members of the community band builds relationships between older and younger players - one of the great benefits of gathering a community-based group of musicians such as this.

Several of the choir members have participated all twenty-five years. Ellie Downer says, "Singing in a Christmas cantata helps us focus on the true meaning of Christmas." Laura Biro adds, "I love this time of year and find it to be an uplifting experience singing with this group of people."

This year's performance is a "potpourri" of selections from the many cantatas offered over the years. Thistle has selected many of the choir's favorites to correspond to the traditional scripture lessons. They include: "Christmas Overture and Procession" from "Let There Be Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin; "I Hear the Prophet Callin'" from "I Hear the Prophet Callin'"

by Pepper Choplin with Peter Guilbault, tenor solo; "Celebration of Advent" from Winter's Grace" by Joseph M. Martin and "My Soul Glorifies the Lord" from "Shout the Good News" by Lloyd Larson. Other selections are: "See the Little Baby" with the children's choir; "Noel, Noel, Sing Glory" from Glory in the Highest" by Marty Parks; "Rise Up, Shepherd, Rise Up" from "Rise Up! A New Light A-Comin'" by Lloyd Larson; "Star of Heaven" from "Heart of Christmas" by Pepper Choplin and "A Joyful Gathering of Carols" from "Let There Be Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin.

As always, musical offerings are

alternated with scripture readings. Readers are Chris Nahkala, Gail Pryce, Martha Bigelow, Dick Pryce, Jan Pierce, Linda Barringer, Mark Turnbull and Jan Paradis. And this year, the congregation can join in carols with the choir and orchestra in the performance finale.

All are invited to the performance at the Oakham Congregational Church, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. The performance is free and will be followed by refreshments. Donations are gratefully accepted in support of the Oakham Congregational Church music program and Quabbin Pro Musica.

BARRE GAZETTE EARLY DEADLINE

To celebrate
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the Advertising
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for the week of
December 25

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the Advertising
Deadline will be
**THURSDAY,
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for the week of
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TurleyPublications

Haston Free Public Library lists events

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library announces several special holiday happenings in November and December.

In November and December the LEGO club will be building a LEGO gingerbread house. Come every Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m. and join in the construction. Please sign up in the children's library.

Patrons with overdue fines can have their fines forgiven if they bring in non-perishable food items for the North Brookfield (St. Joseph's Church) food pantry until Thanksgiving. This applies only to fines; lost book charges will still apply.

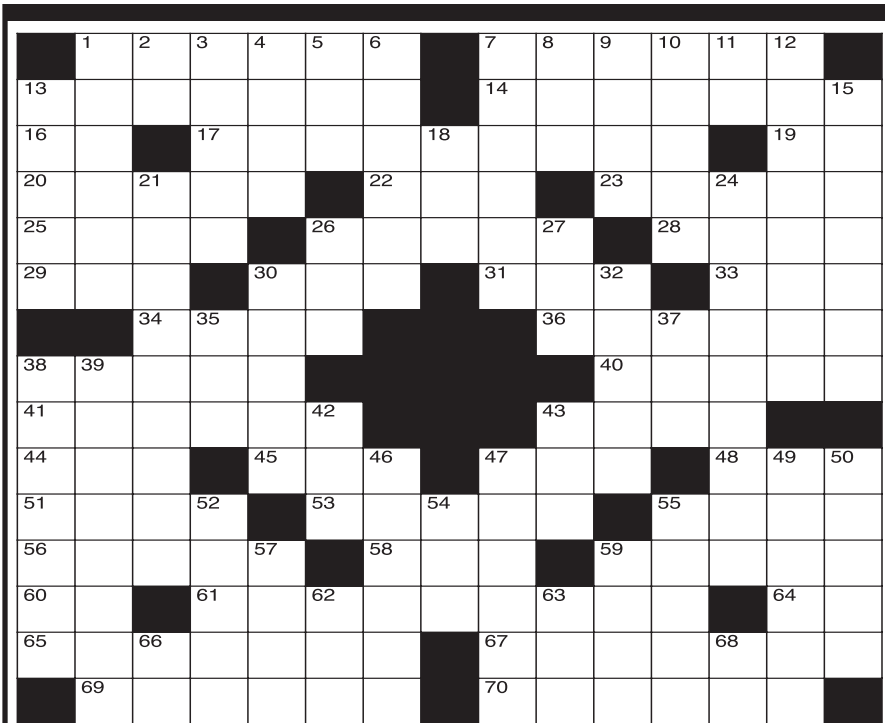
On Thursday, Dec. 12, Elisabeth Hyder, of

Brookfield Paperworks, will be offering a workshop for making folded paper window stars. Please call the library at 508-867-0208 to sign up.

Ongoing events at the Haston Free Public Library:

Mondays, Adult coloring group, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, - Read, Build, Play storytime, 10 to 11 a.m.
Wednesdays, Parent-Child Playgroup, 9 to 11 a.m.; LEGO Club 5-6:30 p.m.; Writing Group (second and fourth ednesdays) 6-7:30 p.m.
Thursdays - Robotics Club, 2:30-4 p.m.; Kids Crafts, 4-5 p.m.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Rope used as a lasso
7. Lomb's partner
13. North African nation
14. Rounds up cattle
16. Densest naturally occurring element
17. Home of the Brewers
19. Atomic #44
20. Vetches
22. Moved earth with a tool
23. Cavalry sword
25. Supplements with difficulty
26. Encouraged
28. Speech defect
29. Periodical (abbr.)
30. Very cold
31. ... Paulo, city
33. Former OSS
34. Approves food
36. Cars need them
38. Sweden's dominant phone company
40. Long lock of a woman's

hair

41. North American natives
43. Fly high
44. One type is fire
45. Nocturnal bird
47. More than one male
48. LOTR actor McKellen
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Tony-winning actress
55. Tennis star Kournikova
56. Pulitzer-winning composer
58. The opposite to pro
59. Safe crackers
60. Denotes past
61. Parrots
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
65. Reduce the importance of
67. Stiffly
69. In a sensible way
70. Signs

CLUES DOWN

1. Capital of Zambia
2. Article
3. Country star LeAnn
4. Egyptian goddess
5. Afflict in mind or body
6. Showy but cheap
7. Belgian urban center
8. Short-winged diving seabird
9. Deploys
10. Ballplayers can legally do it
11. Centiliter
12. Contrary beliefs
13. Type of pole
15. Distinguish oneself
18. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
21. One who monitors
24. Petty quarrelling
26. Fiddler crabs
27. Touch lightly
30. American state
32. Pro wrestler Randy

35. Indicates spelling mistake
37. Macaws
38. Gradually narrowed
39. Installments
42. Female sheep
43. Politician
46. Servant
47. Said to facilitate concentration
49. California ballplayers
50. Once Toledo's tallest building
52. A type of pie
54. State of southwestern India
55. Principal member of Norse religion
57. Counterspy
59. Wellness practice
62. ...-de-sac: dead end street
63. Used to cook
66. Type of hospital
68. Direct message

ANSWERS ON PAGE 15



These equestrians and their horses rode in the Santa Parade. Both riders and their mounts got decked out in holiday finery.



The Narragansett Regional High School Marching Band from Templeton provided holiday music. The band was a yearly fixture in the parade in Barre as part of the Christmas in Barre celebration, Dec. 7.



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Christmas in Barre



Vendor Doreen Bechan takes a break at the holiday craft fair at the Barre Town Hall to be dazzled by a magic trick by Magic Joe from Ayer.



Out on the town during Christmas in Barre last Saturday at the Barre Congregational Church fair was Barre's oldest resident, Bessie Difley, 105 years old, middle, with granddaughter Alise Jordan, left and daughter, Jane Difley.

CALENDAR, continued from page 6

SWINGING SINGING SENIORS will be held at the Hubbardston Senior Center, Main St., Hubbardston at 1:30 p.m.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre, using the rear entrance.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION SEMINAR with Brian from Fallon Community Health Plan, will be held at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre from 10 a.m. to noon. He will assist people with any insurance questions they may have, or how to apply. He will be at the senior center the third Wednesday of every month.

QUILTING GROUP will be held at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

MEDITATION will be held at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

PINOCHLE will be played at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre, every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

READ AND PLAY will be held at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., Oakham every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. Children can enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft.

NATIVITY, continued from page 1

“The willingness of community members to loan their nativities is very gratifying,” stated Carpenter. “Many people attending shared their life’s experience with nativities, either from their days as a child at Christmas or their adult years of either having a favorite or finding a passion in collecting them. Each story and comment warmed the hearts of those who were so weary from creating the event and helped give us energy to carry us through.”

Although not a collector of nativities, Carpenter enjoys the event and each year different sets will catch her eye.

“At this year’s display, the nativities I noticed were those that spoke of Joseph’s emotional connection to Mary and the Christ child,” Carpenter said. “There was a tall one-piece wooden nativity in the first room that showed Joseph’s hand lovingly placed on her back and it seemed to be an expression of compassion and support to Mary for her childbirth travails.”

The task of preparing the rooms can typically take up to 20 or so hours, divided up into several days, easily justifying the need for three exhibit days.

Guests choosing to visit on Friday evening were treated to

All the way from Honduras, this nativity was among many international nativities on display.



A camel catches the eye of Avianna D'Amato at the Nativities Around the World event.

“Christmas Across the Generations,” a holiday concert performed by the Quaboag Choral Society.

“We hope everyone, old and young, of any faith or none, living near and far, felt welcomed as they shared in an artistic tradition relating to the meaning of Christmas,” Carpenter said.



SCOUTS BSA TROOP 6 FOR GIRLS, the local BSA Troop for Barre area girls, meets 7-8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Gardner American Legion. This is a hiking, biking, paddling Troop where girls can earn their Eagle rank. For more information, people may email Troop6.Girls@gmail.com.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS will be held on Wednesdays at Athol Hospital, 2033 Main St., Room 177, Athol at 6 p.m. No dues, no fees and no weigh-ins. For more information, people may call or text Bruce P. at 508-864-0593, email brucep.aa@charter.net or visit aa.org.

THURSDAY, DEC. 19

BARRE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY will be held at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre from 5-7 p.m. to help set up and staff the tables, help clients “shop” the food pantry offerings and help carry groceries to clients’ cars. Community Service hours can be provided for Quabbin Regional High School students who come to help. For more information, people may call Sonja at 978-355-6921 or Chuck at 978-355-6463.

BARRE FOOD PANTRY EVENING DISTRIBUTION will be held at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre from 5:30-7 p.m. for free monthly distribution of fresh, frozen and canned food made available through local and regional donations and state and federal government programs. The Barre Food Pantry would like to encourage clients to bring their reusable grocery tote bags with them when they come to pick up food at distribution. For more information, people may contact Sonja at 978-355-6921 or Chuck at 978-355-6463.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities. Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses. Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

Local newspapers can strengthen communities. Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

Local newspapers can benefit children. National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Consistency key in preparing for winter season

By Karen A. Lewis
Sports Correspondent

BARRE - Cold days, long dark nights, lots of snow on the ground in November – the calendar may read the last dates of autumn, but many have already made that mental transition to winter.

Quabbin District's Strength and Conditioning Coach, Nick Adams recently shared some useful tips to help people of all ages come into the season of indulgence on a positive note.

"You can't beat consistency," Adams said. "I feel that it is best to keep a healthy perspective when it comes to wellness – physical, mental and emotional health and a healthy balance within life."

Adams services the Quabbin community. Any Quabbin district student from grade seven through 12 may have free access to the Strength and Conditioning Center located at Quabbin Middle/High School during open hours, while community members are invited to enroll for a reasonable fee.

With some of the fall athletes not opting to participate in winter sports, or others who know as the holidays approach, so will high caloric delicious food, the center will be a happening place during the months ahead.

"No one should feel guilty for indulging in their favorite holiday treat or feel poorly about themselves because they missed a workout to spend extra time with family during this time of year," stated Adams. "One good workout or meal won't make you and one bad workout or meal won't break you."

On any given day at Quabbin, Adams will coach a variety of kids, winter sport athletes working on things they didn't at team practice, athletes preparing for spring sports



Quabbin senior Croix Jenkins, who participates on both the basketball and baseball varsity teams, trains consistently at the Quabbin Strength and Conditioning Center.

and athletes that may not want to play a sport at all, but know the importance of keeping fit and conditioned as a healthy way of life.

"We have a great mix of students that utilize the weight room after school, representatives from every niche with the Quabbin middle/high school," said Adams. "Students on sports teams, band, chorus, drama, National Honor Society, boy scouts, art enthusiasts, gamers, etc."

"We certainly see an increase of students and athletes training in preparation for the upcoming season," continued Adams. "Our athletes take their training seriously and have really bought into

our strength and conditioning program."

Of course visiting the center is certainly a convenience during the winter, where getting outside to exercise can be un-motivating and at times dangerous. However, Adams encourages people to exercise even if they are unable to get to Quabbin.

"One hundred percent health is wealth – and movement is medicine," remarked Adams. "There is plenty of credible research that supports exercise as being beneficial to improving mental well-being."

A possible way to incorporate exercise not only during the bleak

winter months, but all year is to do more days during the week for less time during a session.

"In the fitness world it's termed – micro-dosing, which means shorter but more consistent training sessions," shared Adams. "If you train for 30 minutes six to seven times a week, it's not much of your day – only two percent. But it'll rack up just as many training hours as someone who trains for an hour to an hour and a half, two to three times each week. I'm a big fan on this concept because a missed training session isn't as much of a big deal either compared to someone who trains two to three times each week."

For those training outdoors still – watching for conditions, layering up with a wicking material as the base, staying hydrated even though there is no outdoor heat to produce sweating and using some kind of reflective gear (vest, headlamp, etc.) for the dark, were suggestions from Adams.

"I feel that all areas of fitness see an increase in January," concluded Adams. "It's a great time of reflection and goal setting to see who you want to become in the new year. We welcome anyone who is willing to put forth their best effort toward self-improvement."

See EXERCISE, page 10



Quabbin senior Noah Herzig, a football player and a spring track athlete, works hard year round at the Quabbin Strength and Conditioning Center.

Barre's Dion makes Pride varsity

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield College men's basketball team eased their way to a 90-64 victory over Becker in non-conference play in Blake Arena in recent action.

The win lifted Springfield to 5-0 on the season, marking the first time that Springfield has won five games to begin the season since the 2011-12 campaign. The Hawks dipped to 2-3 with the setback.

Jake Ross (Northampton, Mass.) continued his remarkable play with 32 points, 11 rebounds, six assists, and five steals, and classmate Heath Post (Cheshire, Conn.) added 21 points on 9-of-12 shooting to go along with nine boards as the duo only played 23 minutes apiece. Robert Baum (West Springfield, Mass.) added 11 points off the bench as Springfield finished the night shooting 33-for-62 (53%) en route to their fourth 90-plus point outing of the season. Springfield owned a 40-29 edge on the glass and totaled 22 assists on 33 made field goals.

Springfield limited the Hawks to just 64 points in the win, despite Mateus Ribeiro tallying 18 points and Jamir Carr added 15.

Ross went coast-to-coast for his seventh-straight point as Springfield opened up a 10-0 lead just 2:49 into the contest. The Pride's advantage grew to 16-3 when Ross got into the passing lane for another steal and bucket in transition with just over 15 minutes remaining in the stanza. After Becker pulled within

See DION, page 10

Senators fight hard, but fall short in WMass championship game

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD - The South Hadley High School girls soccer team is never complacent, and is always looking forward and trying improve.

In the Western Mass. semi-finals, the Tigers could not finish. When the Tigers started the Western Massachusetts Division 3 Championship game against Mahar Regional, they were able to finish an opportunity just one minute into the game.

Teagan Gawron's first goal of the game got the Tigers going, and they put up a crooked number in a 7-2 victory over the Senators on Nov. 16 at Berte Field at Central High School.

For the Tigers, it was their third consecutive sectional title and the third time they have advanced to the state tournament, which consists of just two games.



Grace Rich sends a shot through the middle.

Earlier this week, the Tigers successfully got past Central Mass. Champion Holy Name to earn the right to face Stoneham in the state championship game on Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m. at Foley Stadium in Worcester.

It also marked another regular season in which the Tigers were not defeated in a Western Massachusetts match since coach Rich Marjanski took over

See MAHAR GIRLS, page 10

Pioneers will be young this season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional boys basketball team will have a younger look with just enough veteran presence to hopefully make a run at qualifying for the Western Massachusetts Division 4 tournament.

Last year's team failed to qualify for the tournament despite having a good record over the earlier course of the season.

But late-season games did not work out as well and the Pioneers were unable to keep up the pace.

This year, the Pioneers will welcome new coach David Oliveira. He revealed his varsity roster earlier this week.

He said returning players include Alex Bergeron, Mathias Wilke, Sam St. Laurent, and Isaiha Perez.

The team did graduate quite a bit of its starting talent, including Tyler Bienvenue, Jon Lagrant, and Dylan Piscionari.

See PIONEERS, page 10



Jon Lagrant gets set to send a pass across the court.



Matias Wilkie sends a pass inside the paint during action last season.

Wisniewski Secures NEWMAC Men's Basketball Defensive Player of the Week Honor

WESTWOOD – Senior Jake Wisniewski (West Brookfield, MA) has been selected as the NEWMAC Men's Basketball Defensive Athlete of the Week. It is the program's first weekly defensive award since Reid Walker (Tampa, FL) took home top billing in November of 2018.

Wisniewski, the reigning

NEWMAC Defensive Player of the Year, anchored a defensive effort that led the No. 25 Engineers to a 2-0 week. The Crimson and Gray defense took center stage as WPI limited Worcester State and Fitchburg State to an average of 60.5 points per game and 33.9% shooting from the floor in the victo-

ries. The senior averaged 11.0 rebounds on the week, including 13 total on the defensive glass, and added a steal and a block.

Emerson sophomore Nate Martin (Washington, DC) was tabbed as the conference's Offensive Athlete Week. WPI (7-1) hosts undefeated Tufts (5-0) Tuesday night at 7 p.m.



Siobhan Davis tries to settle the ball near midfield.



Maddison Lloyd punts the ball away.

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Sports

Quabbin 2019-2020 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL			
Friday, Dec. 13	Away	Northbridge	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Away	Hudson	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 19	Away	Bromfield	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	Away	Montachusett	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Home	North Middlesex	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Away	Gardner	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Away	Clinton	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Home	Narragansett	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Away	Oakmont	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Home	Tyngsborough	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Home	Hudson	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Home	Gardner	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Away	North Middlesex	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Home	Lunenburg	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Home	St. Peter-Marian	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Home	Shepherd Hill	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Home	Littleton	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 10	Away	Nashoba	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 12	Home	Oakmont	7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL			
Thursday, Dec. 12	Home	Northbridge	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13	Away	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Home	Hudson	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 19	Home	Bromfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Away	North Middlesex	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Home	Gardner	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Home	Clinton	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13	Away	Doherty	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 14	Home	Oakmont	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 17	Away	Tyngsborough	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	Hudson	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Away	Gardner	6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25	Away	Wahconah	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Home	North Middlesex	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Away	Lunenburg	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Away	St. Peter-Marian	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Home	South	6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 7	Away	Littleton	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 12	Away	Oakmont	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 19	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.
INDOOR TRACK (all meets at Tantasqua)			
Saturday, Dec. 14	Away	Meet 1	1 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Away	Meet 2	5 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Away	MSTCA Invitational	TBD
Wednesday, Jan. 15	Away	Meet 3	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 17	Away	MSTCA State Relays	TBD
Wednesday, Jan. 22	Away	Meet 4	5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25	Away	Varsity Invitational.	TBD
WRESTLING			
Saturday, Dec. 14	Away	St. John's (quad-meet)	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Away	Algonquin	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21	Away	Millford Tournament	10 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Away	Lowell Holiday Tournament	9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 28	Away	Lowell Holiday Tournament	10 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 4	Away	North Attleboro (quad-meet)	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Away	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 11	Home	Quabbin Duals	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 15	Away	Montachusett	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 18	Away	Holliston	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22	Home	Marlborough, Shepherd Hill	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25	Away	Methuen Invitational	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Home	Nashoba	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 1	Away	Wayland	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Tyngsborough	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 8	Away	Bellingham	10 a.m.

DION, continued from page 9

16-10 at the 13:09 mark on an inside score by the Hawks, a three-point play by Ross allowed the Pride to regain a 22-10 advantage. The visitors would pull within six again at 23-17 midway through the frame, only to have Springfield regain a 36-23 lead when Ross took a sensational feed from Post to punch out a dunk in traffic with 7:15 on the clock. The lead would balloon to 45-29 when Post elevated for a deep three at 4:11, and a turnaround on the baseline by Post with under a minute to go allowed the Pride to take a 55-37 cushion

into the break. The hosts were very efficient on the offensive end of the ball, going 20-for-30 (67%) while handing out 14 helpers, in the opening 20 minutes of play.

The visitors cut within 61-45 under four minutes into the second half, but the Pride opened up a 24-point lead when Trey Witter (Unionville, Conn.) cashed in triple at the 13:07 mark. Springfield would coast from there with a number of new faces in the lineup as it would lead by as many as 30 points following a three-pointer from Sam Dion (Barre, Mass.) with 4:43 remaining to make it 87-57.

Dion had seven points in the game.

Pathfinder 2019-2020 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL			
Monday, Dec. 16	Away	Bay Path	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Away	Westfield Tech	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Home	Granby	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 2	Home	Bay Path	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	Away	Franklin Tech	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Away	Duggan	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Away	Smith Voke	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Home	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	St. Mary's	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27	Home	Westfield Tech	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Away	Baystate Academy	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 10	Away	Smith Voke	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 13	Home	Smith Voke	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 17	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 19	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL			
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Home	McCann Tech	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Home	St. Mary's	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 2	Away	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	Home	Renaissance	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	Home	Commerce	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Home	North Brookfield	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13	Away	North Brookfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 17	Away	Franklin Tech	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 20	Home	Duggan	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 23	Away	PVCA	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Away	Westfield Tech	6 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Home	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Renaissance	6 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 10	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Home	Franklin Tech	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 14	Away	Duggan	7 p.m.
WRESTLING			
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Home	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 2	Away	Granby	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	Home	Mohawk	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22	Away	Gateway	6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Away	Smith Voke	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Home	Duggan	7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 8	Away	Southwick Duals	9 a.m.

MAHAR, continued from page 9

the program in 2017.

"We were definitely nervous from the semifinal game," said Marjanski. "We are an offensive-minded team. And today, we were able to come out and finish opportunities early in the game and established a tone."

He said one of the keys to South Hadley's victory was isolating Delaney Parker, Mahar's best player on the field.

"We focused a lot of our defense on her and tried to take her out of the game," he said. "The game goes through her for them."

The Tigers scored one minute into the game as Gawron took a pass from Paige Marjanski and re-directed it at the goal to make it 1-0.

"We were really excited," said Gawron. "We just wanted to get a goal quickly. It didn't matter if it was me scoring it or someone else."

Maddie Doolittle found the goal on her own in the 12th minute. She had a corner kick opportunity that curved right into the goal to make it 2-0. Less than five minutes later, Gawron scored her second goal. She took a service pass from Lindsay Marjanski, and got a left foot on the ball and made it 3-0.

The Tigers would go on to take a 5-0 lead at halftime, and spent a great deal of the second half utilizing its bench with a large lead.

Mahar managed a goal a few minutes into the second half. But the Tigers answered that by tacking on two more goals to make it 7-1.

Gawron, Doolittle, and Reese Carey had two goals each. Lindsay Marjanski also scored once.

Mahar's first goal was scored by Parker, with Micalyn Mailloux scoring an unassisted goal with eight minutes remaining in the game.

South Hadley is 21-0-1 heading into their state final matchup with Stoneham.

EXERCISE, continued from page 9

ment to join us."

More information for adults is available on the Quabbin Regional High School Athletic page or by checking out the

strength and conditioning program on Twitter/Instagram @Coach___Adams (three underscores). Adults may have access to the weight room Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., with Strength Camp beginning at 4:30 p.m. each day.

North Brookfield 2019-2020 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL			
Thursday, Dec. 12	Home	South Lancaster	6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14	Away	Quaboag	2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 17	Away	Notre Dame	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	Away	Trivium	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Away	Athol	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 30	Home	David Prouty	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Away	Bethany Christian Academy	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	Home	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7	Home	Notre Dame	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	Away	South Lancaster	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Home	Immaculate Heart of Mary	7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 17	Home	St. Mary's	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	Sizer	6 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27	Home	Trivium	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Away	Immaculate Heart of Mary	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Home	Sizer	6 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Home	Bethany Christian Academy	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 6	Away	St. Mary's	4 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 13	Away	David Prouty	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 19	Away	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL			
Thursday, Dec. 12	Home	South Lancaster	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14	Away	Quaboag	1 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16	Home	Ware	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20	Home	Trivium	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 27	Away	Leicester	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 30	Home	David Prouty	5 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3	Away	Bethany Christian Academy	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	Away	South Lancaster	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	Away	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13	Home	Pathfinder	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 16	Home	Immaculate Heart of Mary	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 17	Home	St. Mary's	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Away	Sizer	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27	Away	Trivium	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Away	Immaculate Heart of Mary	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31	Home	Sizer	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Home	Bethany Christian Academy	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 6	Away	St. Mary's	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 13	Away	David Prouty	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 18	Home	Athol	7 p.m.



Carra Fitzgerald fights to keep possession of the ball.

PIONEERS, continued from page 9

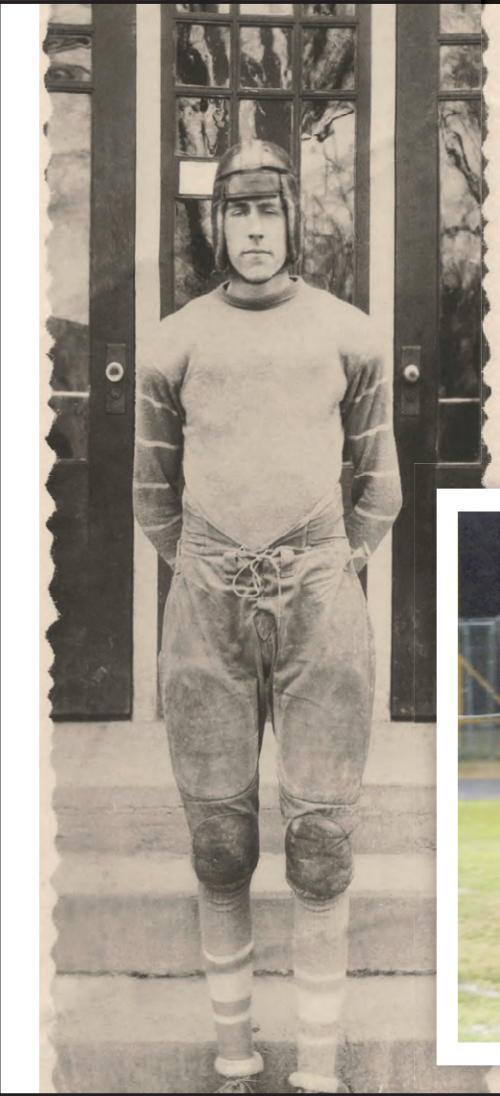
Oliveira is bringing up Zachary Menard, Colin Doktor, Nick Beaulieu, Darren Wawro, Jordan Talbot, Colin Gunter-Donaghy, Shaye McKeen, and Coby Hill to fill out the rest of the varsity roster this season.

Oliveira says the Pioneers will

be young, but competitive. They have a schedule that includes Westfield Tech, Smith Vocational, Gateway, and Baystate Academy twice each. Pathfinder will open up on Monday, Dec. 16 at Bay Path, and then follow with a game at Westfield Tech on Dec. 18. The home opener for Pathfinder will be on Friday, Dec. 27 against Granby.



Cooper Hurt calls out a play as he makes his way down the court.



While uniforms for high school sports have changed over the years, our dedicated weekly coverage of local games has remained the same.

Our Sports editors and their staff of reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. We also accept photo submissions and write-ups from coaches and players. Email your content to Dave Forbes at dforbes@turley.com.

14 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Town Reminder

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Education

North Brookfield robotics team earns award

By Karen A. Lewis
Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Making a difference and pitching in, some of the many things North Brookfield native George Nolette wanted to do when he accepted his job as a custodian in the North Brookfield school system.

He has certainly done that and more, as Nolette and North Brookfield principals Jason Hynek and Sarah Priestley addressed an audience of approximately 20 people last Thursday evening in the elementary school cafeteria about the numerous benefits a robotics program could have throughout the entire district.

Nolette has first-hand experience in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) program, as he has been the robotics coach for the past two years of a team of students in the junior/senior high school participating in FIRST competitions.

“In the beginning, when this team was an idea, there was a committee,” said Nolette. “I wasn’t on it and I didn’t know it existed, but somehow when they decided to go forward and start a team, the former high school principal, Bill Evans, raised the idea of asking me.”

Because of Nolette’s background in carpentry and building things, apparently Evans thought Nolette would be a good fit to be a leader in building a robot – the challenge that is given to students who get involved and compete in FIRST.

“I said sure, and so it began, we gathered up some interested kids and we started meeting, watching videos, reading – lots of reading,” explained Nolette.

After the initial homework to



Turley Publications Photos by Karen A. Lewis

North Brookfield junior/senior high school principal Jason Hynek goes over the many advantages a robotics program would have for the entire school system at an informational meeting last week.

become familiar with the FIRST competition program was complete, Nolette and his team took part in a worldwide broadcast, which revealed to all those planning to compete, what the current year’s game would be including the tasks, situations, rules, etc.

“The build season starts and ends in six weeks with a countdown clock at midnight,” stated Nolette.

Once the robot was completed, the students took it to compete against numerous other schools around New England and in their inaugural year, North Brookfield wound up earning a Rookie Inspiration Award and last year the school won an Imagery

Award.

North Brookfield senior Alec Norrie, who with his father Scott, have been a part of the team since its inception – the elder as a mentor, focusing on making sure the team has enough resources and the son as a participant.

“I was interested in FIRST because my son Alec had shown quite an interest in coding and computers and there’s really not a lot of opportunity in our area to pursue those interests,” said Scott Norrie. “In my mind, a FIRST robotics team was a great way to do that.”

“It has been a pretty great experience,” Alec Norrie said. “If you want to compete, there



North Brookfield senior Alec Norrie poses with Reign, one of the robots junior/senior high school students created to use in the FIRST Competition last year.

is something great about being able to work as a team to make a functional robot. Each season is a new rewarding challenge to solve.”

As the elder Norrie explained, the last two years of North Brookfield’s involvement has happened due to a grant from NASA covering the registration and kit costs.

Because of the success of the last two years, and with two new principals in the district, the meet-

ing last Thursday was to make parents and community members aware of the recent history of robotics at North Brookfield, and to discuss making robotics more of a regular part of everyone’s school day, rather than just an extra-curricular activity for older students.

“Having a strong elective offering that matches the change of the future landscape for students is essential for our students to be competitive when leaving

high school,” Hynek said. “FIRST allows for team building, problem solving and gives students an opportunity to be hands on with their learning. Students take more pride in their work when they can see it, manipulate it and drive it around a room.”

An in depth power point presentation was shown to the audience last Thursday, going over the different age levels of the FIRST program, explaining the variety of unique offerings and opportunities in each age category.

“With all school budgets, everything is important,” said Hynek. “We want to provide our students with the absolute best possible opportunity to be successful. If a robotics program can reach those goals and everyone is on board, the cost will not matter.”

“As far as seeing this program as a useful part of a student’s overall education, it’s invaluable,” said Nolette, who is now not only a coach, but an advocate for the program to be district wide. “The lessons, the life skills, the use of tools, the satisfaction of having an idea, putting it to paper, doing cad work, making a part in a 3-D printer or on a work bench builds confidence and makes a kid realize something they just can’t get in a typical classroom.”

Currently, the appeal for a school wide robotics program is at the ground level, looking for supporters and will continue to hold informational meetings and share updates on social media. Hynek extended the invitation to anyone – not just parents but also engineers and people with robotics experience that live in the community and want to get involved to contact him directly at atjhynek@nbschools.org.

QCC students to become Jedi Masters in all things ‘Star Wars’

WORCESTER – A short time ago in a college not so far away, Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) Associate Professor of English, Michael Gormley, began teaching a cultural course on the history of the 42-year “Star Wars” movie franchise phenomena. In another realm, Betty Lauer, QCC’s dean of the School of Business, Engineering, and Technology was using the Star Wars movie franchise to excite high students from South High Community School and Burncoat High School in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). These movies give students a way to see standard academics come to life.

“Star Wars” has transformed into a cultural phenomenon that has become firmly embedded in society. Calling devices such as the popular “droid,” is one example of the integration of “Stars Wars” into society. The droid is a registered trademark by Lucas Film, the film company founded by “Star Wars” creator George Lucas, which was licensed to Verizon Wireless for the company’s smartphones. Additionally, the films’ droids – robots that act like servants, pilots, technicians and soldiers in the “Star Wars films – are being seen in our real technology-driven world. Many scientists and engineers have been inspired by the films.

The course Gormley is teaching delivers students a unique way in which they can learn and understand abstract concepts that can sometimes be difficult to grasp. Through writing and discussions, students analyze the dominant and persistent elements of “Star Wars,” as well as themes of morality, religion, gender, and race. The response from students to QCC’s course has been exceptional. In fact, the three-credit, humanities/liberal arts elective has become so popular that the college added additional seats to try and accommodate as many students as possible. Mr. Gormley plans to teach this course again in Fall 2020.

“Everyone seems to love that the course represents the ability to draw pop-culture into academia. I developed ‘Star Wars as Narrative



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

High school students from South High Community School and Burncoat High School recently visited Quinsigamond Engineering, Science and Technology Center (QuEST Center), located at Quinsigamond Community College, to work on a Star Wars Lego project.

and Culture’ because it’s the dream. As a kid (and often enough as an adult), I wrapped myself and my worldview in stories, usually Star Wars. In many ways, I’m still that kid who wouldn’t shut up about Star Wars,” Gormley said, adding, “Those students who do love Star Wars though, when they heard about the course, always reacted excitedly, often with double-takes or jaw-drop happiness.”

The course focuses on “Star Wars” as a cultural epoch spanning from 1977 to 2019 and curates a nuanced and timely look at the currents that surround and bind the Skywalker Saga with the larger franchise.

“We examine how Star Wars interacts with culture and exists as a culture unto itself. We are also reading most of Chris Taylor’s ‘How Star Wars Conquered the Universe,’ for historical and cultural context, and Ian Doescher’s ‘William Shakespeare’s Star Wars’ to examine how Star Wars interacts with culture,” Gormley said.

The class ending will almost coincide with the Dec. 20 release of the last Star Wars movie: Episode IX, “The Rise of Skywalker.” The goal of the course beyond learning about the Star Wars franchise and culture, is to

give students the opportunity to incorporate what they are passionate about with academics.

For the high school students who came to QCC, attending a Star Wars Lego building session at the college’s QuEST Center enabled them to look at the “Star Wars” phenomenon from a technology perspective.

“Star Wars is such a craze with high school students too; both female and male. This session taught students how to sharpen their spatial skills, while having fun,” Lauer said. “Many of these students are interested in STEM and this activity shows them that learning can be fun too.”

For more information about QCC, people may contact Josh Martin, director of institutional communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Quinsigamond Community College provides the community with high quality, affordable higher education in Worcester County. As a regional leader in education and workforce development, QCC serves the diverse educational needs of Central Massachusetts by providing affordable, accessible and high quality programming leading to transfer, career and life-long learning.

EMT course begins Jan. 28

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program for spring 2020 at Holyoke Community College (HCC).

HCC’s EMT Basic Course (EMT-B) begins Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020 and runs through Tuesday, June 2, 2020. The program consists of 13 weeks (170 plus hours) of in-class lectures and additional online study, training, field trips and workshops designed to prepare students for the state certification exam. The training takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-10 p.m. and select Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at HCC’s Center for Health Education and Simulation, 404 Jarvis Avenue.

The course covers all aspects of emergency care including patient handling, extrication and communication and makes extensive use of HCC’s medical simulation labs.

For more information or to register, people may contact Michele Cabral at 413-552-2257, at mcabral@hcc.edu or go online at www.hcc.edu/workforce and click on “Register.”



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

EMT students take part in an emergency training exercise at the Holyoke Community College Center for Health Education and Simulation. The next round of EMT classes at HCC begins Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020.

Holyoke Community College is the Commonwealth’s oldest community college, serving more than 11,500 students annually in credit and noncredit programs and courses. The college holds transfer agreements with more

than 20 colleges and universities. HCC also offers business development opportunities through the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. People may visit the web at www.hcc.edu.

LOCAL Opportunity IS KNOCKING EDITOR POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of editor for two of its weekly publications, the *Journal Register*, which covers Palmer and surrounding towns, and the *Ludlow Register*. This full-time position is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills. They must also be able to manage a staff writer, including copy editing and guiding coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who enjoys community journalism.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.

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www.turley.com

LOCAL Opportunity IS KNOCKING STAFF WRITER POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quabog Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Send your school stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Church News

Masses and Services

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Rev. James Callahan, Pastor
 Rectory – 978-257-8372
 Office - 978-355-2228
 Fax 978-355-0042
 St. Joseph’s Chapel
 On the Common, Barre
MASS SCHEDULE
 Sunday – 8:00 a.m.
 St. Thomas-a-Becket Church
 Vernon Avenue, South Barre
MASS SCHEDULE
 Saturday – 4:15 p.m.
 Sunday – 10:30 a.m.
 Daily Mass - Monday, Tuesday,
 Wednesday 9 a.m.
 Confession - Saturday 3 p.m. or by
 appointment

BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
 30 Park Street, Barre
 Pastor Margaret Keyser
 “We are a caring community of
 Christ’s followers who, like Jesus,
 welcome people wherever they are on
 their journey of faith.”
 Church office - 978-355-4041
 barrechurch@gmail.com
 www.barrechurch.com
 Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.
 Nursery Care
 After Time with the Children in
 worship, Sunday school for
 ages preschool
 through grade 9 at 9:30 a.m.
 Youth Group every other week
 Bible study and community resource
 programs throughout the year.
 Community Friendship Supper - third
 Thursday of each month
 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Barre Food Pantry - second
 Wednesday
 of each month
 Narcotics Anonymous - weekly meet-
 ing Tuesday
 Alcoholics Anonymous - Heard It
 Through the Grapevine weekly meet-
 ing Thursday
 Alcoholics Anonymous - Pay It
 Forward weekly meeting Saturday

NEW LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

60 Main Street, South Barre
 Pastor James Foley
 Phone: 978-355-6407
 Website: www.newlifebarre.org
 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.–Noon
 Children ages 12 & under are dis-
 missed after worship for Children’s
 Church until noon.
 Thursday Family Night 6-7 p.m.
 Friday Christian Youth Club (CYC)
 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 Children K-12th grade can enjoy
 activities, supervised free time, music,
 worship, snack and age-appropriate
 Bible lessons.

COVENANT EVANGELICAL CHURCH

611 South Street, Barre
 Pastor Gary Hayward
 Phone: 978-355-8843
 www.barre.church/about-us/
 contact@cec-barre.net
 Sunday Service – 10 a.m.
 Adult Sunday School – 9-9:45 a.m.
 with Pastor Hayward
 Jr. Church – K-6 and middle school
 education is offered to all children
 during Sunday service.
 Fellowship Lunch – First Sunday of
 each month
 Bible Studies – Call church for infor-
 mation
 Childcare is available for any infant
 to preschool age child during Sunday
 service.

ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH

58 Church Street, Gilbertville
 413-477-6493
 Rev. Richard A. Lembo
MASS SCHEDULE
 Weekday Masses – Monday, Tuesday
 and Wednesday – 8 a.m.
 Mass first Friday of month – 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday Confession/Reconciliation
 – 3 p.m.
 Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m.
 Sunday Mass – 7:30 a.m.
 Website: www.staloysiuschurch.org

FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN CHURCH

ON THE COMMON HUBBARDSTON

978-928-5822
 Church Service – 10 a.m.
 Sunday School will be at 9 a.m.
 Coffee following the service.
 The pulpit is filled each week with
 ministers, seminary students, lay lead-
 ers, or visiting musicians. This mix
 of speakers gives the church a vibrant
 mix of topics and personalities to
 deliver the message. All are welcome.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF HUBBARDSTON

1 Gardner Rd., Hubbardston
 Sunday Services 10 a.m. to noon
 Open Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Oakham
 Bible Based Fellowship
 508-882-3337–John 3: 3–7
 Weekly host home(s) meetings

OAKHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

4 Coldbrook Road
 508-882-5537
 Rev. Timothy Hanley – Minister
 Sunday Worship Service – 10 a.m.
 Youth Fellowship (grades 6-high
 school) – Sunday Morning
 from 9:30-10 a.m.
 Sunday School (preschool-grade 5) –
 Sunday Morning from 10-11 a.m.
 Family Sunday, Communion, and
 Children’s Story are held on the first
 Sunday of each month (no Youth
 Fellowship or Sunday School)

ST. PETER’S CHURCH

18 North St. (Route 32) Petersham
 Rev. Edwin Montaña, Pastor
 Tel. Church 978-249-2738
 Rectory 978-249-2738
 Sunday Mass – 9 a.m.
 Coffee social hour after Mass
 St. Peter’s Parish Hall

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL PARISH UNITARIAN

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 Church Phone #978-724-3401
 www.PetershamUnitarian.org

ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONAL

21 North Main St., Petersham
 Church 978-724-8808
 Sunday worship – 10 a.m.
 Rev. David Purdy 336-414-7882
 Sunday School - Child Care
 Handicapped Accessible

ST. AUGUSTINE’S MISSION

Church Street, Wheelwright
 Fr. Richard Lembo
 Rectory – 413-477-6493
MASS SCHEDULE
 Sunday – 9 a.m.
 Thursday – 8 a.m.

TEMPLE ISRAEL

107 Walnut St., Athol
 Reb Sarah Noyovitz
 Office – 978-249-9481
 Website: www.templeisraelathol.org
 Two Saturday Shabbat services a
 month beginning at 10 a.m. followed
 by a vegetarian potluck luncheon and
 Torah study.
 (See website for schedule)

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Serving the communities of Hardwick,
 Gilbertville and New Braintree meets
 on a rotating schedule at the involved
 churches as follows:
 January-April - New Braintree
 Congregational Church, 3 Oakham
 Rd., New Braintree
 May-August - Trinitarian
 Congregational Church (the Stone
 Church), Rte. 32, Gilbertville
 September-December - Hardwick
 Universalist Church, Hardwick Center
 Worship begins at 10 a.m. on Sundays
 with Sunday School during worship.
 In summer, services are at 9:30 a.m.
 and Sunday School is in recess.

Further information is available on
 their website
 triparishcommunitychurch.com or
 people can contact them at tripar-
 ishcc@gmail.com or by phone at
 508-867-3306 or by mail at: P.O.
 Box 202, New Braintree, MA 01531.
 Pastor Deb Shepard can be reached
 by phone at 413-478-0731 or email at
 debasheps@aol.com.

SAINT PATRICK PARISH

Father James Boland, Pastor
 290 Main St., Rutland
 Parish Center
 9 Pommogussett Rd., Rutland
 Church Hall - 508-886-3161
 Fax - 508-886-2897
 Email - info@stpatrikstrutland.org
 Daily 8 a.m. Masses - Monday,
 Tuesday and Wednesday
 Saturday Mass - 5 p.m.
 Confessions will be heard on
 Saturdays from 4-4:30 p.m. or by
 appointment only.
 Sunday Masses - 8 a.m.
 and 10:30 a.m.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER- DAY SAINTS

108 New Braintree Rd.(Rte. 67),
 North Brookfield
 Church – 774-289-6068
 Sunday Worship – 10 a.m.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RUTLAND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

All are welcome here.
 264 Main St., Rutland
 Pastor David W. Fish
 Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m.
 and 10 a.m.
 Sunday School is held at 10 a.m.
 during the service
 Senior High Youth Group on Sundays
 at 7
 Pastor’s Cell - 413-537-8027
 Church Office - 508-886-4453
 Pastor’s email: dwfish@comcast.net
 Church email: rutlanducc@gmail.com
 facebook.com/
 FirstCongregationalChurchofRutland
 Website: www.rutlanducc.org

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST BROOKFIELD

P.O. Box 371
 36 North Main St., West Brookfield
 Rev. Lisa Durkee Abbott, Pastor
 508-867-7078
 Sunday worship – 10 a.m.
 Sharing Cupboard (serving West
 Brookfield, Warren and West Warren)
 - Wednesdays - 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.,
 Thursdays - 7-8 p.m. Call the church
 for more information at 508-867-7078.
 Senior choir practice Thursdays –
 7:30 p.m.
 Seasonal Bible studies
 Call church for times and dates

ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

15 Park Avenue, Athol
 Rev. William B. Hobbs, Pastor
 Church Service is Sunday mornings
 at 9 a.m.
 All faiths welcome.
 Sunday School is at 9 a.m.
 Church office – 978-249-9553
 Website — www.stjohnsathol.com
 St. John’s Thrift Shop is open
 Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m.
 to noon providing quality pre-owned
 clothing and housewares at
 reasonable prices.

CHESTNUT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

161 Chestnut St., Gardner
 978-632-1978
 gardnerumc@gmail.com
 Rev. Sela Rousseau, Pastor
 Sunday Worship Service - 10 a.m.
 Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday
 6:30-8 p.m.
 Choir Rehearsal - Sunday 9 a.m.
 Website gardnerumc.org

Obituaries

Leonard “Len” Bechan, 68

OAKHAM – Leonard “Len”
 Bechan, 68, died suddenly Dec.
 3, 2019. Beloved husband of
 Melinda “Mindy,” brother of the
 late Jack (Ramona) Bechan, the
 late Colette Mecherle and Claire
 (Bill) Norberg; brother-in-law of
 Keith and Garry Kraehmer and
 loving uncle to many nieces, neph-
 ews and cousins.

Len was a tireless worker,
 mentor on and off the job, with
 a never ending search for knowl-
 edge, challenges and improve-
 ments. A master electrician and
 proud union member, Len brought
 many apprentices to become jour-

neymen under his guidance. He
 always offered to help on any proj-
 ect and his expertise in so many
 areas produced impeccable accom-
 plishments.

Len came to Oakham in 1986
 to live on the farm where he spent
 many summers as a child visiting
 the grandparents. He truly enjoyed
 his dream life of country living
 and building his own beautiful
 home.

Len was a loving husband and
 family member, a friend to all and
 a great neighbor and helpful soul.
 He had a quick smile, a contagious
 laugh and an easygoing personal-

ity that was envied by many. Our
 world has lost a kindred soul. May
 he proudly rest in peace.

A Celebration of Life for
 Len will be held in the spring.
 Pillsbury Funeral Home, 44
 Gilbert St., North Brookfield is
 directing arrangements.

DEATH NOTICES

Bechan, Leonard
 Died Dec. 3, 2019
 Celebration of Life to be held
 in the Spring
 Pillsbury Funeral Home

Rini Kilcoyne to present sermon Dec. 15

PETERSHAM – Rini
 Kilcoyne will present, “I Still
 Believe in Santa Claus” Sunday,
 Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the
 Petersham Unitarian Church,
 across from the Town Common.
 The presentation will include a
 secular Christmas sing-along. All
 are welcome to attend.

According to Kilcoyne, “The
 sermon will be looking at the his-
 torical connection between our
 image of Santa Claus and our



Rini Kilcoyne

GVNA hospice program remembrance service

WESTMINSTER — On
 Thursday, Dec. 12, GVNA
 HealthCare’s Hospice
 Program will host a Holiday
 Remembrance Service at the
 Westminster Senior Center, 69
 West Main St. at 6 p.m. “The
 remembrance service is an
 opportunity for any communi-
 ty member who has experienced
 the loss of a loved one to com-
 memorate their life,” accord-
 ing to Kelly Loescher, Hospice
 Director. “This celebration is

an interfaith gathering, and all
 are welcome to attend,” said
 Loescher. Loescher noted that
 community members are encour-
 aged to bring a photo or mement-
 o of their loved one to place on
 the Table of Remembrance.

“We, as a Hospice Team, cher-
 ish the opportunity to help fami-
 lies and are touched by how they
 welcome us into their homes
 and their lives at such a difficult
 time,” she said. “We are proud to
 be able to offer this remembrance

service to our families and the
 community as a way of showing
 how enriched we, as healthcare
 professionals, are by our involve-
 ment with their loved ones,” she
 added.

People are welcome to join
 them for the service, fellowship
 and light refreshments. For more
 information about the Holiday
 Remembrance Service or to reg-
 ister for the event, people may
 call the Hospice Program at 978-
 632-1230, extension 321.

BBB offers tips on ‘pop-up’ shops

“Pop-up” shops have long been
 part of the holiday retail landscape
 as landlords look to fill of vacant
 retail space in downtown areas and
 suburban malls.

The Better Business Bureau
 receives hundreds of complaints a
 year about temporary retail loca-
 tions, reporting everything from
 poor quality merchandise to dif-
 ficulty obtaining refunds after
 temporary stores have closed their
 doors. Pop-up shops can be fun,
 but keep the following BBB tips
 in mind if you choose to buy from
 one of them:

Research store headquarters. If
 you are interested in trying a new
 or unfamiliar online merchant,
 ask the company for its physical
 location (address and phone num-
 ber) so you can check its BBB
 Business Profile at BBB.org.

Ask how long a store will oper-
 ate. If you are buying from a sea-
 sonal store, ask whether it will be
 open after the holiday and whether
 it will accept returns when the sea-
 son is over. If not, consider buying
 elsewhere or taking more time to
 be sure the item is exactly what

you want before making the pur-
 chase.

Review purchase policies. De-
 termine the company’s refund
 and return policies before you buy.
 If pop-up shops cannot offer con-
 crete commitments on how they
 will handle any potential problems
 you may have with their products
 or services, reconsider doing busi-
 ness with them.

Shop around. Pop-ups often
 focus on unique or high-quality
 gifts that you may not find else-
 where, but some are simply mini
 versions of discount retailers,
 offering holiday-themed goods
 that may be available for less at a
 traditional retailer.

Pay attention to quality. Occa-
 sionally, pop-ups sell coun-
 terfeit products, so be cautious
 when purchasing designer goods
 or that latest “must have” gifts.
 Prices that are dramatically lower
 than regular retail stores may be
 a red flag that the items are either
 stolen or counterfeit.

Know the terms of any product
 or service guarantees. If you are
 purchasing anything that comes

with a manufacturer’s warranty,
 ask how you will be able to get the
 product serviced if needed.

Guard your personal informa-
 tion. For small items, you might
 be better off paying in cash so you
 don’t have to share any person-
 al information. Just be sure you
 understand that you probably
 won’t have any recourse if some-
 thing is not right. For larger items,
 paying with a credit card can pro-
 vide additional protections if there
 are problems and the retailer dis-
 appears. Make sure you hang on to
 the receipt to match it against your
 credit card statement.

Consider whether the gift is for
 a hard-to-please recipient. If you
 are planning a gift for someone
 who might need or want to return
 it, consider buying from a retail-
 er with a long-standing business,
 strong reputation and well-es-
 tablished return policies, instead of
 a pop-up shop. Whenever possible,
 ask for a gift receipt that would
 make a return or exchange eas-
 ier, if necessary. For more holi-
 day tips, people may visit the BBB
 Holiday Tips page.

Holiday program coincides with National Impaired Driving Crackdown

BOSTON – The Massachusetts
 Alcoholic Beverages Control
 Commission (ABCC) began their
 holiday season enforcement efforts
 this past weekend at bars throughout
 the Commonwealth that have been
 most commonly identified as the
 last bar to sell alcohol to a convicted
 drunk driver.

According to the National
 Highway Traffic Safety
 Administration (NHTSA), between
 2013 and 2017 there were 800 peo-
 ple killed in alcohol-impaired driv-
 ing crashes during the Thanksgiving
 holiday period, the Wednesday
 before Thanksgiving through the
 Monday after.

Run in conjunction with the
 NHTSA’s Impaired Driving
 Crackdown, the ABCC’s Sale to
 Intoxicated Persons (SIP) enforce-
 ment will be in effect until New
 Year’s Eve.

“The ABCC wants to ensure
 that the holiday season is enjoyed
 by everyone, but most importantly
 celebrated responsibly,” said State
 Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg,
 “The safety of all Massachusetts
 residents is of the utmost impor-
 tance and by establishing SIP we
 are supporting that priority and
 maintaining safer roads.”

The ABCC will also be working
 with local police departments that

have identified high risk locations in
 their communities.

Alcohol is involved in 40 percent
 of traffic crash fatalities resulting
 in 17,013 fatalities and injuring an
 estimated 275,000 people annual-
 ly. Data indicates that well over 50
 percent of impaired driving arrests
 originate at bars.

The Alcoholic Beverages Control
 Commission is an agency under
 the Office of the State Treasurer
 and Receiver General Deborah B.
 Goldberg. Its overall objective is to
 provide uniform control over the
 sale, purchase, transportation, man-
 ufacture, and possession of alcohol-
 ic beverages in the state.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage polices, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.



NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Classifieds

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- Restored with new woven seats -
Many styles and weaves available. Call
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DISH TV - \$59.99 For 190 Channels
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Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions
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2 YEAR SEASONED OAK &
Hardwood. Cut, split, delivered. 2, 3,
4 cord loads. **R.T. Smart & Sons**
(413)267-3827 www.rtsmart-wood.com.

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$160.00
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All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for
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umes **guaranteed!!** New England
Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

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change. Place your order today. We
also purchase standing timber. **413-
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yr. old. Prompt response and delivery.
Call now S & K **413-267-3100** or
800-607-5296.

!!!!SEASONED FIREWOOD!!!!
Over a cord guaranteed. Cut, Split,
Prompt delivery. Call D & D Cordwood
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A PLACE FOR MOM. The nation's
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Contact our trusted, local experts to-
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back pain? If you have insurance, you
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little to no cost. Get yours today! Call
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consultation.

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MOBILEHELP, AMERICA'S PREMIER
MOBILE MEDICAL ALERT
SYSTEM. Whether you're Home or
Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind.
No Long Term Contracts! Free Bro-
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eries. Only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved!
FREE info kit. Call **1-800-732-0442**

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an American Standard Walk-In Bath-
tub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including
a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty
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0854**

WANTED

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS want-
ed. Planes, chisels, saws, levels, etc.
Call Ken **(413)433-2195**. Keep your
vintage tools working and get MONEY.

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Classifieds
Get Results!



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WE TAKE IT ALL
WE LOAD IT ALL**
Lowest Rates,
accumulations, junk, estates,
attics, garages, appliances,
basements, demo services
10% disc. with this ad.
All Major CC's
CALL NOW **(413)531-1936**
acallwehaul@gmail.com



*******A & B HOUSEHOLD
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Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard
debris. Barns, sheds, demolished.
Swimming pools removed. Cheap-
er than dumpster fees and we do all
the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured.
**(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-
8868.**

ABSOLUTE CHIMNEY HIC
#161245 & CSSL #101365 Insured.
Sweeping chimneys year round. Thank
you. **(413)967-8002**

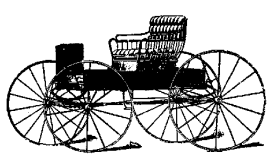
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Established 1976. New re-roofs and
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ing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Class-
room instructor, 20+ years experience.
Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for es-
timate.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plas-
ter repair. Drywall hanging. Taping &
complete finishing. All ceiling textures.
Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls.
(413)563-0487

PAINT AND PAPER Over 25 years
experience. References. Lic #0806220.
Please call Kevin **978-355-6864.**



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vehicles such as sleighs, carriages,
surreys, wagons, dr's buggies, drive-
able or lawn ornaments. Some fur-
niture and other restoration services
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workmanship. Call **(413)213-0373**
for estimate and information.
**DEMERS & SONS
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***NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advis-
ing caring of children must list a li-
cense number to do so if they offer this
service in their own home.

ELECTRICIAN

DEPENDABLE ELECTRICIAN,
FRIENDLY service, installs deicing
cables. Free estimates. Fully insured.
Scott Winters electrician Lic. #13514-B
Call **(413)244-7096.**

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MENARD GARAGE DOORS Spec-
ializing in the best quality and selec-
tion of insulated Haas garage doors.
Sales, Installation, service and repairs
of residential and commercial garage
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WE OFFER COMPLETE installa-
tions of residential garage and shower
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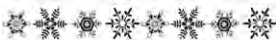
HOME IMPROVEMENT

C-D HOME IMPROVEMENT. 1
Call for all your needs. Windows, sid-
ing, roofs, additions, decks, baths,
hardwood floors, painting. All work
100% guaranteed. Licensed and In-
sured. Call Bob **(413)596-8807** Cell
CS Lic. #97110, HIC Lic #162905

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Kitchen, bath, foyers. Referenc-
es. Lic. #086220. Please call Kevin
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**HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-
MODELING** Kitchens, baths. Ceram-
ic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering,
textured ceilings, siding, decks. Insur-
ance work. Fully insured. Free esti-
mates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

**WATER DAMAGE
CALL JAY (413)436-5782-
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SERVICE. FINISHING,
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(SMOOTH OR TEXTURED).
40+ YEARS EXPERIENCE.
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**DON'T BE A STARVING ART-
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Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
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eries, loader, backhoe, insured. Pro-
fessional. Please call Bob **(413)537-
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STOP WET BASEMENTS ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatch-
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**FORBES & SONS PAINTING &
STAINING** Interior, residential, com-
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pentry repairs. Quality products. Since
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RETIRED GUY WILL paint an aver-
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**LINC'S PLUMBING
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"New Projects"
Call LINC'S
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FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS. All
types of roofing, shingle, flat and slate.
Call Local Builders **(413)626-5296.**
Complete roofing systems and repairs.
Fully licensed and insured. MA CS
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Let me save you money. Tree re-
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stump grinding. We're fully insured and
workmen's comp. for your pro-
tection. Free estimates. Mon-Sun Call
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clearing. Fully insured. Free estimates.
Firewood sales. **(413)687-3220**

COMPLETE TREE SERVICE Free
Estimates, Fully Insured. Residential,
Commercial, Arborist Lic #5-4573.CT.
30 years exp. Prompt Services **413-
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4381** Duane Jr.

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Every-
thing from tree pruning, tree removal,
stump grinding, storm damage, lot
clearing and brush chipping. Honest
and Dependable. Fully insured. Now
offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran
discount. Call today for free estimate
(413)478-4212

*****H & H TREE SERVICE***** Fully
insured. 15 yrs experience climbing.
Skid steer work, land clearing. Call
Dave. **413-668-6560** day/ night.

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CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!! All
Makes/ Models 2000-2019! Any Con-
dition, Running or Not. Top \$\$\$ Paid!
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**CAROL'S PET & HOUSE SIT-
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family and your home. Peace of mind
is priceless. Rest easy and enjoy your
time away knowing your pets and your
home are in great hands. Visit [carol-
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a la carte, to suit your needs and your
budget or call **413-519-5298**

**RETIRED RACING
GREYHOUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION**
**SPAYED/NEUTERED, WORMED,
SHOTS, HEARTWORM TESTED,
TEETH CLEANED**

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CALL MARY AT 413-566-3129
OR CLAIRE AT 413-967-9088
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HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS
offered year round at our state of the
art facility, beginner to advanced. Ages
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Leasing also available. Convenient lo-
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HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR SMALL indepen-
dent contractor for 4 small properties
in Ware. Requires plowing and clear-
ing of sidewalks. Must be reliable. Call
413-967-7772 for more information.


United Personnel
PALMER AREA HIRING EVENT
Join United Personnel on Monday,
December 16th between the hours of
1pm and 4pm.
We will be in the Three Rivers Room
at the Palmer Public Library located at
1455 N. Main Street in Palmer.
We're hiring for Shipping/ Receiving,
Machine Maintenance Mechanic, and
entry level manufacturing positions.
If you're unable to attend, please call
(413) 736-0800 to arrange another
time.

**TOWN OF WARREN
WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT
ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATOR**
The Town of Warren Board of Sewer
Commissioners is accepting applica-
tions for a Wastewater Treatment Plant
Assistant Chief Operator. Salary is in
accordance with the Town's current
wage classification plan.
Applicants must possess a Massachu-
setts Grade 5 Operators License and
valid MA Driver's license.
Job descriptions and applications are
available at the Warren Wastewater
Treatment Plant, 2527 Main Street,
West Warren, MA 01092. The position
will remain open until filled.
Warren is an EOE.

PART TIME HELP NEEDED to
stack firewood and run equipment.
Reliability a must. Must have reliable
transportation. Please call **413-245-
4500** for details.

PCA NEEDED FOR 98 YR old fe-
male. 5pm-8am Wed. and as needed.
Contact Karri **413-544-8356.**

SALEM CROSS INN now hiring serv-
ers and bartenders. Apply in person
or online at www.salemcrossinn.com

**THE TOWN OF NORTH BROOK-
FIELD** is seeking a shared Adminis-
trative Assistant for the Police De-
partment and Highway Department.
Please visit www.northbrookfield.net
and see Job Opportunities for more
information. All resumes must be re-
ceived no later than December 30,
2019.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN
FRIDAY AT NOON**
**HILLTOWNS
MONDAY AT NOON**

HELP WANTED

**THE TOWN OF NORTH BROOK-
FIELD** is seeking an Assistant to the
Treasurer and Collector. Please visit
www.northbrookfield.net and see Job
Opportunities for more information.
All resumes must be received no later
than December 30, 2019.

TITLE: FIRE CHIEF SHIFT: PART-TIME/ON CALL

The Town of Oakham is seeking a
qualified individual to fill the position of
part-time Fire Chief. The fire depart-
ment is comprised of approximately 20
firefighters & EMTs. The Fire Chief is
responsible for the management and
administration of a major department
by performing a variety of technical,
administrative and supervisory duties
including planning, organizing, pre-
venting and extinguishing fires, fire
prevention education, emergency re-
sponse and recovery hazard mitigation
and basic life-support EMS to prevent
or minimize the loss of life and prop-
erty by fire and emergency medical
condition. The Fire Chief is required
to perform all similar or related duties
and is responsible for maintaining and
improving the efficiency and effective-
ness of all areas under his/her direc-
tion and control.

Candidates must have strong lead-
ership, managerial and communication
skills. The chief manages the town's
EMS operations and personnel re-
sponses to all emergency calls, pre-
pares, submits and manages the
department's annual operating and
capital budgets, approves payroll and
overtime, develops bid specifications
reviews proposals and makes recom-
mendations of bids to the BOS, super-
vises use of apparatus, works on in-
spections, maintains accurate records,
researches grant opportunities, and
manages all grants awarded, attends
professional meetings and training
programs

Minimum Requirements: Associates
deg. in Fire Science, Fire protection
engineering, business administration,
public administration or a closely re-
lated discipline • 10 years of progressive
experience as a member of a Fire De-
partment providing Fire and EMS • 5
years of experience at a supervisory or
command rank • Class D motor vehicle
Driver's License • Fire Instructor 1 cer-
tification • Fire Officer 11 certification
EMT certification • ICS 400 • Rank of
lieutenant or higher • Pass NFP 1582
physical • Knowledge of apparatus op-
erations • Knowledge of federal, state,
and local laws, regs, codes as state
building code, state fire prevention
code & regs and national fire preven-
tion codes • Knowledge of municipal
finance and personnel law, budgeting,
grants, OSHA regulations • Willing to
respond to a call 24/7 when able un-
less adequate staffing is available •
Ability to resolve conflicts by creating
innovative team building programs •
Comfortable with IMC CAD software
and fire reporting software
Resumes can be emailed to: bos@oakham-ma.gov
or before Decem-
ber 31, 2019. A complete job descrip-
tion is available at <http://www.oakham-ma.gov>.
The Town of Oakham is an
Equal Opportunity Employer.

**TOWN OF BARRE
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WORKING FOREMAN
IMMEDIATE FULL-TIME
OPENING**

The Town of Barre DPW- Highway
Dept. is seeking qualified applicants
for the immediate full-time position of
Working Foreman. Applicants must
have a valid Massachusetts Driver's
License Class B (CDL) with DOT Med-
ical Examination Certification and a
Hoisting Engineer License Class 2A
with DOT Medical Examination Certi-
fication. A full job description with min-
imum requirements and employment
application is available upon request
from the Department of Public Works.
This position is a union position and
the current classification is a PW-4
with a minimum hourly rate of \$26.03/
hour and the maximum hourly rate of
\$32.01/hour. Interested applicants
should submit a letter of interest and
an employment application to: Town
of Barre DPW, 441 Wheelwright
Rd., Barre, MA 01005 no later than
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at
4:00 p.m. For further information,
please contact the DPW Administra-
tive Assistant, Shannon O'Connor, at
978-355-5013 or via Email to dpw@townofbarre.com. AA/EOE

**TOWN OF WARREN
WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT
ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATOR**
The Town of Warren Board of Sewer
Commissioners is accepting applica-
tions for a Wastewater Treatment Plant
Assistant Chief Operator. Salary is in
accordance with the Town's current
wage classification plan.
Applicants must possess a Massachu-
setts Grade 5 Operators License and
valid MA Driver's license.
Job descriptions and applications are
available at the Warren Wastewater
Treatment Plant, 2527 Main Street,
West Warren, MA 01092. The position
will remain open until filled.
Warren is an EOE.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT
PLANT OPERATOR/
MECHANIC POSITION**

The Town of Warren Board of Sewer
Commissioners is accepting applica-
tions for it's Wastewater Treatment
Plant Operator/ Mechanic position.
Salary is in accordance with the Town's
current wage classification plan. Ap-
plicants must possess a high school
diploma or GED and have or obtain
a Massachusetts Certified Grade 3
Operator License within six months
of hire. A class B Commercial Driver's
License is desirable. Job descriptions
are available at the Warren Wastewa-
ter Treatment Plant, 2527 Main Street,
West Warren, MA 01092. The position
will remain open until filled. Warren is
an EOE.



**CLASSIFIEDS
EARLY DEADLINE**

To celebrate
CHRISTMAS,
the Advertising
Deadline will be
**NOON,
DECEMBER 18**
for the week of
December 25

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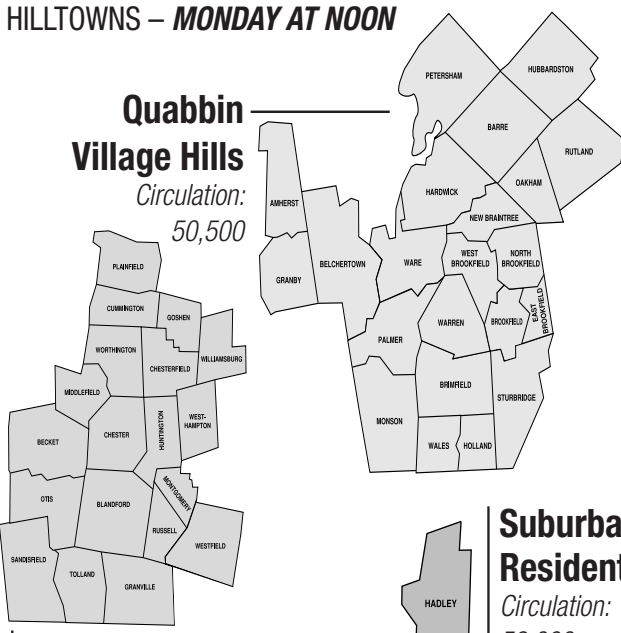


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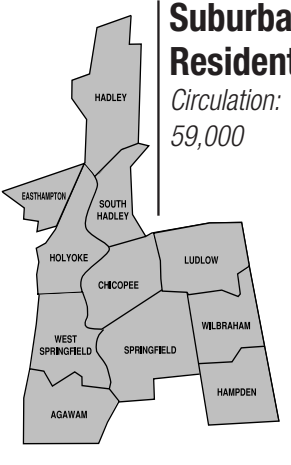
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AHA offers heart-healthy tips

The American Heart Association offers suggestions to stay happy and healthy throughout the busy holiday season.

The holidays are a time for celebrating with family and friends, but often stress inhibits abilities to enjoy the holiday season. From shopping to cooking to events, people are often packing their schedules while forgetting about their health.

A report in the Journal of the American Heart Association noted that heart-related deaths spike during Christmas. While more research is needed to pinpoint the exact reason, researchers suggest that emotional stress, changes in diet and alcohol consumption, less staff at medical facilities and changes in physical environment (i.e. visiting relatives), could play a role in the spike in deaths.

In order to protect the heart and enjoy more holidays with loved ones, people may follow these tips to stay healthy and happy this season.

Maintain healthy habits. Even though schedules change during the holidays because of travel and events, it's important to maintain regular healthy habits. For instance, eating healthy, balanced meals, moving more every day and getting at least seven hours of sleep each night.

Beware of party perils. Special holiday events could mean extra helpings of not-so-healthy meals. Try eating a healthy snack, such as a big salad or vegetable soup, before a party to avoid overindulging later. If people are hosting or bringing a dish, offer healthier options using American Heart Association recipes and cooking tips found at recipes.heart.org.

Give oneself the gift of peace. It's okay to say no to invitations when people have too much going on. If they start to feel over-

whelmed, recharge by doing something that relaxes such as yoga, meditation or going for a brisk walk.

Make a plan for the New Year. When all the parties are over, the winter blues set in. Instead of feeling down, challenge oneself with realistic, sustainable goals for a healthy, happy New Year! For example, start a walking routine and sign up for local Heart Walk to stick to the goals.

While avoiding stress and making good choices can help prevent heart disease and stroke, the nation's No. 1 and No. 5 killers, it's still important to know what to do if a person or loved one experiences the signs and symptoms of heart attack, stroke or cardiac arrest. The Journal report noted that patients hold back in seeking medical care during the holiday season, which could also explain the spike in deaths.

If you or a loved one experiences the warning signs of heart attack, stroke or cardiac arrest, don't delay, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Heart Attack Warning Signs: Discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Discomfort in other areas of the upper body, including pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

Shortness of breath, with or without chest discomfort. Other signs may include breaking out into a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

Call 9-1-1 immediately if experiencing any of these symptoms.

Stroke Warning Signs: Face Drooping. Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile.

Arm Weakness. Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift

downward?

Speech Difficulty. Is speech slurred, are they unable to speak, or are they hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "the sky is blue." Is the sentence repeated correctly?

Time to Call 9-1-1. If the person shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get them to the hospital immediately.

Cardiac Arrest Warning Signs: Sudden loss of responsiveness. The person does not respond to tapping on shoulders.

No normal breathing. The victim does not take a normal breath when you tilt the head up and check for at least five seconds.

Call 9-1-1 immediately and start hands-only CPR by pressing hard and fast in the center of the chest.

For more healthy living tips, people may visit the new Healthy For Good website at healthyforgood.heart.org. For more information about heart attack, stroke and cardiac arrest, people may visit www.heart.org/warningsigns. To learn more about CPR, people may visit cpr.heart.org.

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke, the two leading causes of death in the world. The AHA team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke.

To learn more or to get involved, people may call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit heart.org or call any of our offices around the country or follow on Facebook and Twitter.

Gas prices decrease one cent last week

Gasoline prices in Massachusetts are down one cent this week, according to AAA Northeast.

AAA Northeast's Dec. 9 survey of prices in Massachusetts finds self-serve, regular unleaded averaging \$2.50 per gallon. Massachusetts's price is 7 cents below the national average of \$2.57. A year ago at this time, the average price in Massachusetts was 12 cents higher at \$2.62 per gallon.

"Since the end of October, gasoline demand has mostly decreased

as gasoline stocks have mostly increased, paving the way for cheaper gas prices," said Mary Maguire, Director, Public and Legislative Affairs. "AAA expects stocks to continue to grow and drive gas prices even cheaper through year-end."

The range in prices in the latest AAA survey for unleaded regular is 73 cents, from a low of \$2.32 to a high of \$3.05. AAA advises motorists to shop around for the best prices in their area. Please remember to slow down and move over for any

emergency vehicles on the side of the road.

Today's local self serve gas prices and their ranges are as follows: \$2.50 (\$2.32-\$3.05) regular unleaded, \$2.83 (\$2.59-\$3.09) midgrade unleaded, \$2.99 (\$2.76-\$3.39) premium unleaded and \$2.96 (\$2.69-\$3.25) diesel.

People may find the most up-to-date local gas prices with the AAA Fuel Finder by logging onto AAA.com and clicking on Gas Saving Tips and Tools.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO19P3873GD In the matter of: Theodore L Lackey Of: Barre, MA, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Heather Sevigny of Barre, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Theodore L Lackey is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Heather Sevigny of Barre, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/24/2019. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the

return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 26, 2019
Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate 12/12/2019

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WOP3875PM In the matter of: Theodore L Lackey Of: Barre, MA Respondent (Person to be Protected / Minor)

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR

OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G. L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Heather Sevigny of Barre, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Theodore L Lackey is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Heather Sevigny of Barre, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/24/2019. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to

the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 26, 2019

Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate 12/12/2019

Early Deadlines

for all PUBLIC NOTICES...

to run the week of December 23-27, 2019:

- Thurs., Dec. 19 at NOON for The Register, Sentinel, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Chicopee Register, Agawam Advertiser News, Quaboag Current, Barre Gazette, Country Journal, Ware River News, The Journal Register, Town Reminder and The Holyoke Sun

Happy New Year!

to run the week of December 30 - January 3, 2020:

- Thurs., Dec. 26 at NOON for The Register, Sentinel, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, and Chicopee Register, Agawam Advertiser News, Quaboag Current, Barre Gazette, Country Journal, Ware River News, The Journal Register, Town Reminder and The Holyoke Sun

Happy Holidays!

Crossword Answers

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Senate passes accountability measures for colleges, universities

BOSTON – In the wake of a series of high-profile closures of small colleges throughout the commonwealth, the Massachusetts State Senate unanimously advanced legislation Wednesday to establish new requirements for higher education financial reporting and oversight in an effort to support both students and the institutions of higher education themselves.

The legislation establishes new accountability measures, including the development of student-focused contingency plans if that public college or university

is expected to close. In addition, it requires the development of a training program for school board of trustee members to promote better oversight of public colleges and universities.

“No student’s degree aspirations or financial resources should ever be put in limbo due to the sudden closure of their school,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka, D-Ashland. “I am proud that this legislation passed by the Senate will bring stability and transparency to our higher education system.”

“The Senate has continually

placed an emphasis on education and making sure that students are afforded every opportunity possible,” said state Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education. “This bill adds necessary protections to make sure that students, faculty, and staff are protected from abrupt school closings and provides greater transparency and accountability relative to the financial stability of all institutions of higher learning.”

Among its provisions, the legislation seeks to address issues

surrounding the closure of higher education institutions by requiring annual financial reports from public colleges and universities. Under the bill, the Board of Higher Education is tasked with creating an assessment system to examine whether an institution is at risk of imminent closure; if so, the institution is required to prepare a contingency plan for closure.

Higher education institutions are also required to notify the BHE of any known financial circumstances that may result in closure or the inability to fulfill obli-

gations. Failure to comply with the requirements of the legislation may result in penalties from BHE.

To help ensure that college and university trustees understand their legal, fiduciary and ethical obligations under the law, the legislation requires the Department of Higher Education to develop a training program on topics critical to the proper oversight of a public institution of higher education. Relevant topics may include fraud prevention, fiduciary responsibilities, ethical procurement and state finance law. Trustees would be required to

complete the training every four years.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed similar legislation in early October. Action in both branches follows several recent instances of school closures, most notably last year’s sudden closure of Mount Ida College in Newton, as well as disclosures of other fiscal issues at other public higher education institutions.

An Act to support improved financial stability in higher education now returns to the House for further consideration.

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